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Dalglish takes over at Newcastle PAGE 24



BUSINESS

City's superwoman stripped of power PAGE 16



THE TABLOID

Bridget Jones's Diary

Power to the people

55 days of protest on the streets of Belgrade: now Europe's pariah totters

Steve Crawshaw
Belgrade

It was a moment supporters of the Serbian opposition had come to fear they would never see. But at last, the regime of Slobodan Milosevic yesterday seemed to be in retreat.

On Serbian New Year's Eve, on Monday night and through into yesterday morning, there was the deafening sound of whistles as half a million marked the beginning of the Orthodox Church's New Year and what they hope will be the beginning of a new era for Serbia.

Then, a few hours later, the Serbian authorities made their biggest concession yet, announcing yesterday that the opposition had, after all, won elections in Belgrade and other cities in November. Until now the government had insisted that the election results were not valid, in effect because the wrong side had won.

The concessions came after 55 days of protests which brought hundreds of thousands onto the streets day after day. It showed that people power, which has already shown its astonishing vitality in Berlin, Bucharest and Prague, is still alive in Europe.

The head of the Belgrade election commission insisted there had been "no pressures" on the commission's decision. In reality the pressures were daunting. On the one hand mass protests, similar to those which brought down Communist regimes in 1989, put the government on the defensive as never before. On the other hand Mr Milosevic, who has shown a Houdini-style ability to escape from impossible difficulties in the past, wanted a bone to throw to the opposition, in the hope that the demonstrators would go home.

The concession came in the immediate wake of a giant New Year's Eve protest and celebration com-

bined. Half a million people filled the centre of Belgrade, blowing the whistles that had become the protesters' favourite prop. Crowds remained on the streets until the small hours, walking and whistling their way through the streets or listening to bands playing in the city centre.

The longer the demonstrations continue, the more difficult it has become for the government to snuff them out. Alarmingly for the regime, even the police have seemed increasingly friendly to the demonstrators as the days have gone by.

According to the official results confirmed yesterday, 60 per cent in Belgrade voted for Zvezdino

Inside
Dancing in the snow as the 'Ice Age' ends
— page 8

("Together"), almost three times as many as the 23 per cent who voted for Mr Milosevic's party, the Serbian Socialist Party (former Communists). In the southern city of Nis, an electoral commission also announced the opposition had won, a point the courts acknowledged last week, but which the electoral commission until yesterday refused to recognise.

But politically, the fat lady has not yet sung. Mr Milosevic has not confirmed the election commission's ruling, and opposition leaders yesterday insisted on caution. Zoran Djindjic, a leader of the Zvezdino alliance, warned: "We don't know if this is a final decision, or if tomorrow a new decision will be taken to nullify this." He argued that yesterday's

announcement might be intended to confuse the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is due to meet this week to discuss policy on Serbia. The OSCE condemned the original annulment of opposition victories.

Mr Djindjic demanded greater openness in the state media, especially the powerful and hated television news. He demanded that people across Serbia "should finally know why for two months people protested". Mr Djindjic said yesterday's concession was like "putting a few drops of water onto a huge blaze". The demonstrations, he said, would continue.

Vuk Draskovic, another leader of the Zvezdino alliance, said yesterday's decision was "the first step to common sense". But he also said the street protests would continue until it was clear yesterday's decision would stand.

The knock-on effect of the demonstrations and of yesterday's decision was "the first step to common sense". But he also said the street protests would continue until it was clear yesterday's decision would stand.

Even if he limps on until elections later this year, the days when adoring crowds chanted "Sloba! Sloba!" are gone. For years, Belgrade seemed caught in the Serbian leader's malign shadow. Many ordinary Serbs seemed hypnotised by a leader who proclaimed his love of peace while encouraging and bloodshed on a scale not seen since the Second World War. Now the depressed city has gained a life of its own once more. As one man said on Monday night: "I thought Milosevic was good but he cheated us." His friend added: "Finally, we want to destroy our Ceausescu."



Victory gesture: Serbian opposition supporters flashing the Orthodox salute during New Year celebrations yesterday Photograph: Yannis Behrakis

NHS dentist earns £640,000

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

The search was on last night for the highest paid dentist in Britain, after the disclosure by the Department of Health that it paid £604,000 last year to one dentist who works in the NHS.

Average earnings for most dentists are £98,000 a year, reduced to a more modest pre-tax £40,000 after taking account of practice expenses.

The Department said it believed the dentist had six assistants, but ministers are concerned about high earnings and are instituting checks.

The figures also alarmed Gordon Prentice, the MP for Pendle, Lancashire, who tabled the question after reading that one London dentist had been ordered to be restrained after carrying out unnecessary work, which left a woman patient with fillings in every tooth in her head.

"There is a can of worms here which needs to be looked at," said Mr Prentice. "I take the view that there should be a criminal offence for unnecessary treatment, which is the same as an assault. It is not enough for them to be retrained. They should be behind bloody bars."

Mr Prentice has tabled further questions to find out in which town Britain's richest NHS dentist lives, but so far the Department has proved coy. The town where I live (Barnoldswick) doesn't have a single NHS dentist and it has over 10,000 people," he said.

Funding of Blair's office to be investigated by MPs

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

The secret funding of Tony Blair's office is to be investigated by a committee of MPs after complaints about the propriety of a "blind fund" to help him pay for his campaigns.

The Commons Standards and Privileges Committee, whose last report resulted in the resignation of the Paymaster General, David Willetts, is to examine the funding of the Opposition leader's office and in particular the fund set up two years ago as a vehicle for anonymous donations to the party.

The investigation will embarrass Labour, which has sought to make the secretive nature of Tory party funding an election issue. The embarrassment could be compounded



David Willetts: resigned after latest report

should Mr Blair, like Mr Willetts, face questioning by the committee in the full glare of the television cameras. The investigation follows a complaint by the Tory MP for Dover, David Shaw, following revelations last year of the

existence of the blind fund. Sir Gordon Downey, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, has given his provisional approval to the concept of the blind fund. Because of this he has told members of the Committee he cannot undertake an investigation into the fund.

The idea behind the fund was to allow donors to the Labour Party to give large sums of money without identifying themselves to anyone except the fund administrators. This is intended to get round suggestions that big donors are attempting to buy influence in the party.

In practice the move has proved controversial and is seen by many within the party as an "own goal", as the party has always argued that it is much more open about its sources of funding than the Tories.

The blind fund was set up after Mr Blair became frustrated he could not use mainstream party funds in his campaign two years ago to abolish Clause IV of Labour's constitution.

In his complaint Mr Shaw said the notion of such a blind fund is a sham, as "it is inconceivable that a donor would not seek to draw the receiving MPs' attention to his donation at some time". Mr Shaw points out that the identity of the donors is not disclosed to the Members' Register of Interests.

The Standards and Privileges Committee will simultaneously examine the role of former Tory whip Andrew Mitchell in the investigation into the Neil Hamilton cash-for-questions affair. It has decided to call Mr Mitchell to give evidence at its meeting next Monday.

Tories call for 8-hour school day

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Plans to lengthen the school day by at least an hour are being prepared for the Tory general election manifesto, as part of John Major's new "social agenda".

Children in secondary schools and at sixth-form colleges would be allowed to start later than usual at 9.30am, but they would be expected to stay until at least 5.30pm, to do more work or to take part in organised sport.

The aim of the extra time at school, with a more flexible day, would be to raise education

standards. But it might also prove popular with working parents, who are worried about their children being left unsupervised before they return home from work.

The Prime Minister has been working out the plans with Norman Blackwell, head of the No 10 policy unit, and his political secretary, Howell James, in meetings at his home in Huntingdon during the New Year break. He has called in key ministers to discuss the manifesto plans, which will be thrashed out with the Cabinet in a special Chequers meeting at the end of the month.

City training colleges have pioneered the longer students' day. Mr Major believes it has been a success which could be introduced in schools.

The longer school day could be costly, and it may upset teachers who are already protesting about low morale in the profession. However, it could mean higher earnings for teachers who carried out the supervision, or it could provide jobs for assistants brought in to cover the extra hours.

Mr Major will present the Cabinet with draft plans for the manifesto on a range of issues, including law and order, but Conservative Party sources said he wanted to focus on the "so-

cial agenda", including the provision of more cottage hospitals, improved education, and help for working women.

The Prime Minister wants to avoid the special Cabinet being used by senior Euro-sceptic ministers to force through a change of policy on Europe. The Chancellor has made clear that he would regard any change as a resigning issue.

Mr Clarke is to present a paper to the Cabinet next week on the criteria for judging whether Britain's European partners can meet the terms for entering a single currency without "fudging" the figures.

Top of the class Page 4

QUICKLY

Grobelaar 'offered bribe to lose game'

Former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar was offered "big bucks" to throw football matches and received £40,000 after Liverpool lost a game, a court heard. The Southampton goalie, two other footballers and a Malaysian businessman face conspiracy charges. Page 3

Banana economics

Tesco management was scratching its head over a customer who bought nearly half a ton of bananas, gave them away - and netted a £25.12 profit. Page 5

Cyprus fears eased

The US claimed success in reducing military tensions between Greeks and Turks in Cyprus. Page 8

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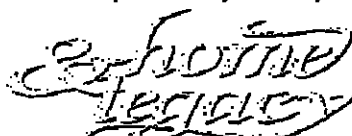
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news

Fighting talk that feeds the killing fields

"Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown!" called the Speaker. And answer came there none. Although the Tory member for Cirencester and Tewkesbury was down to ask the second question to Her Majesty's ministers for Defence, he was not there. The Labour benches – filled with born-again invasion-repellers and arms salesmen – jeered: the assortment of ex-Vulcan pilots and services groupies on the Tory side looked crestfallen. Geoffrey had let the side down.



All David Evans's questions start as a roar and build to a sonic boom; this was no exception

It was only when Michael Portillo was half-way through answering the next question on rapid deployment (this is the man, after all, who can get a hundred telephone lines into SW1 at the drop of a hat), that Mr Clifton-Brown deployed himself very rapidly – but far too late – into his seat. The diminutive C-B, whose face, one of the least expressive in the House, usually fails to betray emotions such as love, hatred or comprehension, was clearly annoyed. One eye opened and one finger wagged, as he explained to a colleague why he had been delayed. My hit-and-miss lip-reading suggested a tale involving a policeman, a taxi-driver and Jerry Hayes.

Then, suddenly, Mr Clifton-Brown was on his feet again and shuffling at speed out of the Chamber. I counted. Thirty seconds later he appeared at the other end of the Chamber, behind the Speaker's chair, and with a sweet grin apologised profusely, telling her about the constable, the cabbie and the media star.

By now the two main parties were involved in a running verbal fist-fight about which of them would sell more British arms to dubious regimes – both claimed that they would. Leading for the Government was the odd dried-up figure of James Arbutnot, Minister for Arms Procurement. He is a man whose desiccated reality bears so little resemblance to the handsome adolescent in the official photographs, that one can only assume that he is either very ill or very vain.

Or maybe, Dorian Gray style, he is wearing the sins of the nation on his face, for as he claimed fantastic success for Britain's arms export industry (14 per cent of the world market in 1994, 20 per cent in 1995, and set to be "significantly higher") I couldn't help feeling deeply depressed, reminded of Satan's maxim from *Paradise Lost* that it is better to reign in Hell than to serve in Heaven.

No such scruples would concern the Dickensian Cockney millionaire from Welwyn, David Evans. All Mr Evans's questions start as a roar and build to a sonic boom; this was no exception. Was the minister aware, he bellowed, that "the Ockrain 'ad more nookleer wa'eads than Br'ain and France put together? Aaand any madman could buy them if he wanted?" Labour wits quipped back: "Have you got one, then?" "Aaand," Mr Evans shrieked, "when my 'onrible friend [minister Soames] was fightin' for Queen and country in the 11th 'ussars, the member for Sedgefield and 12 of his colleagues were grubbin' around Greenham Common in a T-shirt wiv legs and arms in the air, ready to give up!"

My mind's eye pictured the considerable bulk of Mr Soames, jammed into an armoured car (leaving precious little room for the driver or the gunner) riding to war against somebody or other (Mr Evans was not precise about who we were at war with at the time); while an abject Blair writhed in the Oxfordshire mud, wearing only a T-shirt. Mr Evans's imagery is so much more fun than red eyes and red tears, I thought, and no more untrue.

Bishops vote on taking a political stand

Andrew Brown
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Church of England bishops are discussing whether or not to tell people how to vote in the general election.

The 43 bishops, who are in a four-day meeting at a Liverpool hotel, are trying to agree a common stance after individual interventions earlier this month from the bishops of Oxford, Birmingham, Coventry and Liverpool all seemed to urge Christians to vote for the Labour Party.

"They are wondering whether to issue a collective statement about the political responsibilities of Christians," a source close to the meeting said.

The agenda of the bishops' meeting is kept a tight secret. Much of this week's discussions will be taken up with internal issues. But it is known that several senior bishops would like the Church to play an active role in illuminating the issues of the general election campaign.

Others, however, chief among them the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, are very worried that any such intervention would be seen as a boost to the Labour Party. Dr Hope last week gave a newspaper interview in which he stressed the prosperity and success of much of Britain; most of his colleagues prefer to stress the miseries of the deprived parts of the nation.

The official position of the Church of England is that it welcomes the Catholic bishops' document "The Common Good," which was widely seen as urging Catholics to vote Labour when it appeared last autumn.

Several Bishops have privately remarked that they wished the Church of England could have produced as impressive an analysis on its own account. But the Catholic document led to renewed strains within the Catholic

Church. Anti-abortion activists denounced it as insufficiently focused on their favourite issue, while Conservatives denounced its general approach.

The next difficulty faced by the Church of England is the appearance of an ecclesiastical report on unemployment, which a senior adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, tried rather clumsily to squash when it appeared that it would draw the Church into political controversy.

A compromise has now been reached, whereby the report will be published on 7 April. It is expected to stress the primacy of jobs over profit.

Few observers believe the bishops will be able to unite around an unambiguous political statement, partly because they are themselves politically divided. But what they are trying to do, said one source close to the meeting, is to ensure that the political agenda is seen in a theological light: Christianity teaches that human beings have certain fundamental needs and rights implanted by God, and these are what political programmes should try to satisfy.

The trouble for the Church is that the causes where Christian leaders believe the teachings of the Bible are clearest are those where they are least popular. The treatment of the powerless, whether they are beggars, asylum seekers or refugees, is high on the Christian agenda but low on that of any politician who wants to get elected. Several bishops, such as Rt Rev Mark Santer, the Bishop of Birmingham, have attacked New Labour from the left, in political terms.

The final dilemma the bishops meeting in Liverpool must confront is that although they want the deliberations of politicians to be judged by their theological content, they find themselves in a world where the deliberations of bishops are judged for their political content.



Out of the sun: Sea King helicopters from RNAS Culdrose flying by HMS Illustrious, seen here off the Cornish coast yesterday, before embarking for the voyage to the Far East. Photograph: David Branchley

significant shorts

North Wales police chief on sex charge

A fresh allegation of sex abuse has been made against the former North Wales police superintendent, Gordon Anglessea.

North Wales police confirmed last night that a file detailing evidence of the new allegation has been forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service which will decide whether any charges should be brought.

Mr Anglessea, 59, won £375,000 in libel damages in December 1994 after television and newspapers carried reports which branded him a paedophile.

Campaign urges women to donate eggs

A billboard campaign was launched yesterday urging women to donate eggs to childless couples by King's Assisted Conception Unit Patient Support Group and CHLD, the national infertility support network.

Drink-drive PC is jailed

A police officer who crashed his car on the way home from a Christmas party at a police station was jailed for six weeks yesterday. Magistrates in Birmingham heard that PC Kevin Coombes, 30, was three times over the drink-drive limit at the time of the offence in January last year.

Marine's death "negligence"

A Royal Marine reservist on a night exercise was killed because of a sergeant's "gross negligence", Stafford Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Hughes QC, for the prosecution, said Kell Williamson, 22, from Halewood, Liverpool, died from injuries after the accident almost four years ago. He was injured when a van plunged into two lines of soldiers in camouflage dress as they walked on a road across the Staffordshire Moorlands. The trial was adjourned until today.

Solicitor held in Thailand

A British solicitor was yesterday under arrest in Thailand for allegedly defrauding £18m in mortgage funds.

Robert Paul Atkin, 46, from Luton, fled abroad in 1992 following a fraud squad inquiry into his conveyancing work. He was arrested following a request from the British Embassy on behalf of British police seeking his extradition. Bedfordshire Police confirmed a warrant had been issued for his arrest for deception in 1992.

O'Neill and de Brun

In a front page article on 21 November 1996 headed "IRA took tea in Commons say MI5" we reported a visit by a Sinn Féin delegation to the House of Commons to meet Labour MPs. We said the two Sinn Féin officials accompanying the party leader were "suspected by MI5 of being members of the IRA's ruling army council."

On Friday, 22 November we reported the "unprecedented" denial by MI5 of any involvement, and gave the names of the two Sinn Féin officials as Frank O'Neill and Bairbre de Brun. We described them as prominent Irish republicans and said "Neither seems a likely member of the IRA army council".

Mr O'Neill and Ms de Brun have informed us, and we fully accept, that while they are both members of Sinn Féin, and indeed Mr O'Neill is its official representative in England, neither has been a member of the IRA, let alone its army council. We are happy to make this point clear.

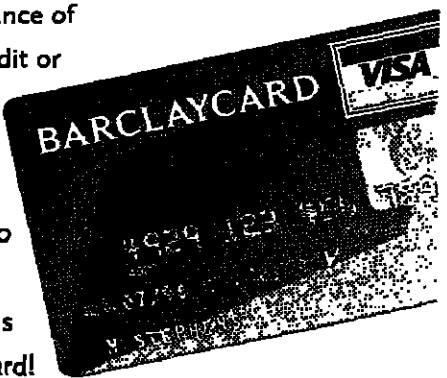
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Ministers angry after being accused of fuelling beef crisis

From Sarah Helm
Brussels
Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

The European Parliament yesterday erupted both the British government and the European Commission when it published a draft report attacking both for fuelling the beef crisis.

Britain is accused of failing to ensure an effective ban on the feeding of suspect offal to cattle and "blackmailing" the EU during the non-cooperation campaign. Reimer Boege, the German head of the parliamentary committee of inquiry, said Britain should be taken to court for failing to assist with his committee's investigation.

Douglas Hogg had refused to give evidence. Mr Boege complained, and should face charges before the European Court of Justice for failing in its obligation to co-operate with a community institution.

The Commission is accused of spreading "disinformation"

in order to protect the single market in beef by preventing the seriousness of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy scare becoming public.

Mr Boege said he intended to challenge commission president Jacques Santer to answer charges of "disinformation" over the BSE affair, when he faces the committee today.

However, the European Parliament itself came under immediate retaliatory attack for what senior commission officials

said was an "amateurish" and "batty" report. "This is pure theatre. The parliament's criticisms are unsubstantiated. The committee just wants publicity," said a senior Santer aide. "What did the parliament itself do to avert the crisis? The answer is very little." In London the Ministry of Agriculture was quick to dismiss the report as simply the view of one committee member. Some of the criticisms were "ridiculous and offensive," a spokeswoman said.

The parliamentary committee's draft report lists a serious of areas in which Britain was negligent in the way it dealt with the spread of BSE and attempted to prevent the risk to humans from the associated Creutzfeldt Jakob disease.

Although the Government banned the feeding of meat and bone meal to ruminants, it failed to prevent the meat getting into the feed due to inadequate control measures, and failed to institute legal penalties for storing the meal, says the report.

Britain is accused of putting pressure on the Commission not to inspect slaughterhouses and of packing EU veterinary committees with British officials in order to push the British case. In series of sweeping statements, the report questions the "impartiality" of British officials, and accuses the Government of a "biased" reading of the advice and warnings of scientists.

And in a move that will surprise many British observers, the report then accuses the European Commission of being in cahoots with Britain over mad cow disease. It says the Commission "tried to follow a policy of downplaying the problem which can, at certain moments, be interpreted as amounting to a policy of disinformation".

As was evident in Brussels at the time, the report implies that the last thing the Commission wanted was the beef ban, but it was forced to call for one by member states after hysteria spread in March.

Burial for unwanted burgers

At least 36 million burgers, sausages, pies and lasagnes are to be buried underground in landfill sites as a result of the BSE crisis, it was revealed last night, writes Fran Abrams.

More than 150,000 cattle will also be disposed of in the same way, according to the board which is dealing with the problem. Officials say there is

no risk to the public in getting rid of the unwanted food in this way, but last night a member of the House of Commons' Environment Select Committee said she believed the only really safe method was incineration.

The 8,000 tons of pies, burgers and other ready-prepared foods were withdrawn from sale by restaurant chains, shops and manufacturers after the beef scare blew up last year. Although the government did not compensate firms for the loss of the goods, it took on the cost of storing them and disposing of them. The food is being kept in cold storage at sites around the country and is expected to be buried by the end of the summer.

Mayhew warns on IRA violence

David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, warned yesterday that the current wave of IRA activity was intended as part of a build-up to "full violence" by republicans.

He was speaking in the wake of the latest IRA attack, in which a mortar bomb was fired

at a police patrol in west Belfast on Monday night. No one was injured in the incident.

Security is being steadily increased, with the appearance of more roadblocks and other precautions, as the Army and police brace themselves for further attacks. The terrorist campaign is by no means running at the level prior to the 1994 IRA ceasefire, but the frequency of incidents is increasing. Most

have been aimed at the security forces. In Monday's incident terrorists took over a house in a nationalist area at Stockman's Park, holding a couple captive for more than three hours. When two RUC Land Rovers appeared a mortar bomb was fired through a hedge, but missed the vehicles and disintegrated on the road. Sir Patrick said: "This is part of a deliberately planned escalation to full

violence by the IRA." Meanwhile, Sir Patrick continued with his attempts to cope with the fallout from remarks by Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, on Monday, when he blamed loyalists for two recent bomb incidents.

The Government had clearly been reluctant to press the issue, fearing that it could result in the ejection of loyalist political representatives from the

Stormont political talks. Sir Patrick declared: "If there is sufficient evidence as a question of fact to show that either of the small loyalist parties at the talks are inextricably linked with people who committed these things then they must take the consequences." However, the political consensus appears to be that the loyalists should be allowed to remain at Stormont.

Soccer star 'took bribes to fix games'

Liverpool goalkeeper received £40,000 after his team lost 3-0, court told

Michael Streeter

The former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was offered "big bucks" to throw matches and later received £40,000 after his side lost 3-0 in a Premier League game, a court heard yesterday.

Mr Grobbelaar, now with Southampton, John Fashanu and the former Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers are accused of receiving or giving money to influence the results of matches. A fourth defendant, Heng Suan Lim, is said to have been "representative" of an Indonesian-based syndicate betting on the outcome of the fixed games.

David Calvert Smith QC prosecuting at Winchester Crown Court, said Mr Grobbelaar told a business partner in 1993 that he was embittered by how little Liverpool paid him compared to other players and wanted to make extra money. In the 1993-94 season he received a £160,000 gross salary, the 13th best paid Liverpool player.

He allegedly told the friend, Christopher Vincent, how he could make more money. "Grobbelaar said the syndicate was prepared to pay him big bucks and wanted him to chuck games," said Mr Calvert Smith. "And he was going to get £40,000 to £60,000 a game if he was prepared to do the business."

After Liverpool lost 3-0 to Newcastle in November 1993, Mr Grobbelaar allegedly phoned Mr Vincent to say it had been a "good result." Mr Calvert Smith added: "If Vincent is right then it certainly had been." The same witness said Mr Grobbelaar later collected £40,000 in cash in the presence of Mr Fashanu, a former Wimbledon and Aston Villa player now retired through injury. The Crown had evidence of how Mr Grobbelaar and Mr Vincent had disposed of the money, said Mr Calvert Smith.

At the start of the case, he outlined the earnings of the three footballers. In his last three years at Liverpool Mr Grobbelaar had dropped in an unofficial table of highest-paid players from 8th to 13th. Mr Fashanu, 33, received £200,000 a year with Wimbledon and got a £200,000 signing-on fee when he moved to Aston Villa. Mr Segers had earned £80,000 as Wimbledon's goalkeeper.

The prosecution had no clear idea what the Malaysian-born Mr Lim, 31, had done in employment during the period but he had studied accountancy and had been involved in selling cars and was involved in a restaurant.

Mr Calvert Smith said the "corrupt scheme" to throw matches was revealed after Mr Vincent approached the *Sun* for financial gain to tell the story about Mr Grobbelaar.

When the story was published in 1994 Hampshire police investigated and later interviewed Mr Grobbelaar, 38.

Mr Calvert Smith said that in interviews taped by the *Sun* Mr Grobbelaar had effectively admitted his actions: there were also many phone calls and further documentary proof which backed up the claims of Mr Vincent, whose evidence had to be taken with a pinch of salt, said Mr Calvert Smith. Mr Segers, 34, received large sums from Indonesia

accused of accepting £2,000 from Mr Vincent in the *Sun* "sting" as an inducement or reward for influencing the outcome of a match. Mr Calvert Smith said Mr Grobbelaar had got to know Mr Vincent through a business deal involving safari tours in their native Zimbabwe and had become close friends.

He said the jury may not have much sympathy for a man (Mr Vincent) who received money from a newspaper for a story about Mr Grobbelaar and who apparently had a book planned on the subject. "His decision to expose Mr Grobbelaar's activities was the result of a business quarrel and not a desire to prevent corruption." But there was both direct and indirect evidence, including statements from other witnesses, which substantiated many of Mr Vincent's claims.

Mr Vincent said that Mr Grobbelaar had used a code in his dealings with Mr Lim - to whom he referred as the "short man" or "Dubka".

When he was on the phone with Lim, said Mr Calvert Smith, Mr Grobbelaar used a code to represent whether a match would be won, lost, drawn. For example, the name Wimbledon was used to represent a win, as it began with W, the name Leeds represented a loss and Dundee would refer to a draw. Other teams' names were disguised. For example the team Leeds was referred to as London because it too began with an L. Mr Calvert Smith said: "There was a certain amount of concealment or code in operation."

He said that in September 1993 Mr Vincent claimed he had gone with Mr Grobbelaar to the Hilton Hotel at Manchester airport, where the goalkeeper had allegedly received £1,000 in cash handed over during a brief meeting in a hotel lavatory, apparently because Mr Grobbelaar wanted to avoid being seen carrying out the transaction in a public place.

According to Mr Vincent, Mr Grobbelaar had initially been involved in a legal scheme through Mr Fashanu to "advise" the syndicate in Indonesia about the likely results of matches but there was evidence that he had later become "hooked" in the fixing of matches, said Mr Calvert Smith.

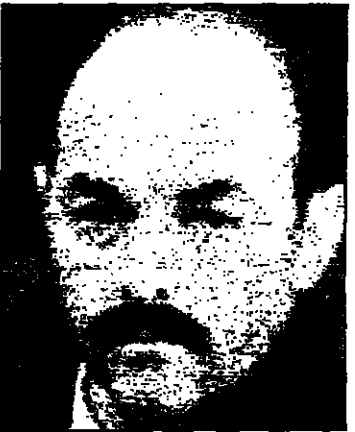
At another meeting in November 1993 Mr Grobbelaar had met Mr Lim again, this time at Heathrow airport, to receive another £1,000 - though Mr Vincent claimed only £750 was handed over.

Mr Calvert Smith said Mr Lim's contacts in Indonesia were a man called Johannes Josef, who had come to London and stayed at the Dorchester Hotel on several occasions and Mr Josef's partner, Elly.

All four men deny the charges. The case continues.



Accused: John Fashanu (top) and Bruce Grobbelaar



during the football season and after matches which Wimbledon had lost, said Mr Calvert Smith.

His explanation that he received the money from crimes committed as a teenager were implausible in the extreme. The idea was that he would do what he could to influence the result of games in order that the syndicate could more safely bet on their outcome, said Mr Calvert Smith.

Crucial to the case were hundreds of telephone calls linking Messrs Lim, Segers and Fashanu, and Messrs Grobbelaar, Lim and Fashanu. The Crown had found no evidence or business links with Indonesia which could justify Mr Fashanu's financial gains, said Mr Calvert Smith. Mr Grobbelaar is also



Sculpture king: Gallery owner Nicholas Treadwell steers Sean Read's fibreglass statue of Elvis Presley, *Return to Sender*, from its east London gallery for the Art 97 art fair in Islington, north London, which runs from today until Sunday. Photograph: Kippa Matthews

A nation mourns. France's only rock star defects to the USA

John Lichfield
Paris

For a nation already wallowing in a crisis of confidence and identity, no news could have been more exquisitely crushing.

Jean-Philippe Smet wishes to be an American citizen.

Jean-Philippe Smet is better known as Johnny Hallyday, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. France's only contribution to the history of rock 'n' roll, a cultural icon to his countrymen (if no one else) for the past 38 years.

In an interview in yesterday's *USA Today* newspaper, Mr Hallyday, 53 going on 18, casually let it slip that he wanted to be an American. Nothing unusual about that, you might say. Mr Hallyday has been a wannabe American ever since he saw Elvis Presley on television in 1958.

But, no, it is far worse than that. Johnny wants to become an American citizen. He is producing his first American record later this year, in English. He wants, finally, to make it in the land of his spiritual forefathers (Elvis, Buddy, Chuck etc).

Why, oh why, Johnny? "French people," he explained, "are very rude." Well, yes, everyone knows that. But what else? He wants to sing in front of American audiences. "It's my American dream," he said.

Mr Hallyday, who still has his shoulder-length blonde hair, already spends half the year in Miami on a 145-foot yacht. He met his third wife, Laeticia, 21, in her father's night-club in the American city two years ago.

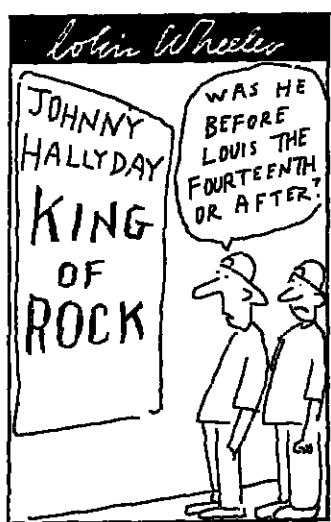
Did he not already perform in Las Vegas in November? Was that not an American audience? Not exactly. Nearly 8,000 French people paid \$1,460 (£880) to fly out and see him.

Then *pourquoi*, oh *pourquoi* is he abandoning such loyal fans? In France, he is a star - THE star - a man who caused teen riots when the Beatles were still in school, the performer of such classic numbers as "Joue pas de rock et roll pour moi", the mainstay of movies such as "D'où viens tu, Johnny?"

"French movies are boring," he told the American newspaper. "I love American movies, because everything is in your face."

On the face of it, nothing could be more calculated to distress the French, already convinced (quite unreasonably) that their culture and nationhood are being drowned by globalism and Anglo-saxon culture.

But how French, in any case, is a man called Johnny, who performs *Le Rock? Hardly* at all, actually. He was born in Brussels in 1943. Johnny Hallyday is, in fact, a Belgian.



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news

Cruel puppy farms in the dog house

Louise Jury

A grey and white Shitzu puppy sits shivering on a bed of newspapers covered in excrement and urine. In a nearby kennel, a pair of Shelties have only an orange crate for a bed.

A King Charles spaniel stares sadly through the bars of his kennel, while a Labrador bitch sits on a pallet with only a saucer of dirty water for sustenance.

These were the cramped and filthy scenes which greeted Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals inspectors when they paid a visit to a puppy farm in west Wales last week.

The pictures were released on video yesterday as the charity urged MPs to support a private member's Bill aimed at clamping down on cruel puppy farms.

The Breeding and Sale of Dogs Bill, promoted by Diana Maddock, Liberal Democrat MP for Christchurch, would make it easier for councils to prosecute unlicensed breeders and improve welfare standards at licensed breeding establishments.

But given the pressure on



Sentenced: West Highland terriers living in filth at an illegal puppy farm in Wales. A private member's Bill aims to clamp down on unlicensed breeders

parliamentary time, it stands no chance of becoming law unless the Government lets it go through to committee stage "on the nod" when it receives its Second Reading on Friday. The Bill incorporates many

recommendations made last year in a report on puppy breeding for the all-party parliamentary group on animal welfare. It has the backing of more than 80 local authorities as well as the RSPCA. Around 20,000 mem-

bers of the public have signed a petition of support.

Ms Maddock said yesterday that local authorities and the RSPCA needed "teeth" to act. "People are buying puppies and they don't know what they're buying. If you have not seen a puppy with its mother, you don't know what kind of establishment it comes from," she said.

Puppy farms are supposed to have a licence from their local council, but even this does not guarantee good welfare standards - as the unnamed farm in Wales demonstrated. In the worst cases, dogs are kept in dirty, damp conditions, bitches are forced to breed excessively and puppies are removed from their mothers too early.

The poor conditions often created health problems which require expensive veterinary treatment later on. In many cases, dogs which have been maltreated are also difficult to train when they get older.

Ms Maddock said: "This is not controversial. The people

who will have to carry it out - the local authorities - are behind us. We hope the minister, Tom Sackville, will back it."

Roger Gale, the Conservative chairman of the all-party animal welfare group, condemned the farms as a "vile trade". And Elliot Morley, Labour's spokesman on animal welfare, said that if the Bill was not successful, any future Labour government would introduce measures to tackle the problem.

Kate Parmenter, for the RSPCA, said they wanted tougher legislation to be able to do their job properly.

The Bill would require an independent vet to be involved in initial and annual inspections of establishments, lay down clear welfare standards and make it easier for local authorities to act against unlicensed breeders.

Ms Parmenter said the video footage shown yesterday was typical of what inspectors found across the country, where animals were being raised purely for profit with no thought of their well-being.

"The RSPCA is opposed to practices where animals are treated merely as commodities. It's a disgrace," she said.

A pedigree Labrador puppy bought from a licensed breeder might cost as much as £800, two or three times as much as from a less reputable trader. Some of the animals are transported abroad, often to the Far East.

The Government was yesterday urged to carry out an immediate "risk assessment" on its rumoured plans to replace quarantine rules with a new system of identification and vaccination, writes James Cusick.

With the Green Paper on the new proposals expected within the month, the lobby group the Pet Advisory Committee backed the easing of quarantine rules, providing that safeguards were included in any change.

"Consideration should be given to a relaxation of the quarantine regulations for animals entering the UK from other EU and rabies-free countries, based upon a risk assessment and feasibility study," it said.

Clubs get pupils to the top of the class

Judith Judd
Education Editor

After-school activities, such as sport and drama, are just as closely linked to high standards as homework, says government-commissioned research which was published yesterday.

Far from disappearing from schools as teachers struggle with new government initiatives, extra-curricular clubs are booming, according to the study by Professor Michael Barber.

His study, which compared seven schools rated excellent by inspectors with seven others, found that high academic standards and a wide range of such clubs went hand in hand. More pupils were involved in out-of-school activities in the excellent schools.

"This contradicts the view that by encouraging a focus on academic performance, wider goals are being neglected. The two go together," Professor Barber said.

The report by researchers at Keele and London universities says pupils feel they benefit by learning more, making friends and gaining confidence.

Professor Barber, of London University's Institute of Education, challenges the view that lunchtime and after-school clubs, usually run by teachers without extra payment, were never reinstated after the teachers' strike in the mid-Eighties when they were withdrawn as part of the industrial action.

After-school activities and homework clubs have "much to contribute both to pupils' interest and enjoyment of school and to their ability to succeed academically," the report says.

It acknowledges the study is too small to establish cause and effect but suggests both are linked to schools' high overall performance in a "virtuous circle." On homework, the report found about 70 per cent of pupils in the excellent schools

did six or more hours per night. The figure for the other schools was around 35 per cent.

The Government announced that it would provide guidelines on homework and case studies of good practice to be circulated to schools later this year.

Robin Squire, the schools minister, said: "It is very clear that setting more and better targeted homework helps to raise standards." But he attacked Labour's decision to specify how much homework pupils should do each night.

"It is not the role of government to prescribe how much homework should be set or in which subjects. This would be totally impractical and would be an insult to the professionalism of teachers," he said.

Labour has said primary children ought to spend 30 minutes a night on homework and secondary children 90 minutes.

Mr Squire said: "A few months ago Jack Straw suggested that children should be in bed by a particular hour. Presumably they would also go round checking up that they had done their homework first."

He announced £60,000 to promote homework in 12 schools. The projects include homework clubs, homework advice for parents and evening classes to teach parents how to help their children with maths.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said a recent opinion poll (*Sunday People/Audience Selection*) had shown 77 per cent of parents backed Labour's policy. "It is odd ministers persist in denying parents information about what they should expect."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said the Government was "correct to rule out 'new' regulations. To impose them would be to ignore the lessons of the national curriculum and the danger of excessive intervention."

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BBC triumphant in ratings battle

Marianne Macdonald
Media Correspondent

The BBC yesterday hailed 1996 as a triumph for the corporation, with the release of audience figures showing that BBC1 and BBC2 were the only terrestrial networks to increase their share of viewing.

Last year, BBC1 delivered its best competitive performance against ITV for seven years, according to the official Barf figures. It narrowed ITV's lead to 2.7 per cent, from 5.1 per cent in 1995 and 7.1 per cent in 1994.

The corporation also increased its overall audience share for the fourth year running, to 44.1 per cent from 43.3 per cent. Of that, BBC1's share rose by 0.3 per cent and BBC2 by 0.4 per cent.

BBC2 also claimed to have increased its lead over Channel 4, pushing its audience share from 11.2 per cent to 11.6 per cent, compared to 10.8 per cent for its rival (down 0.2 per cent from 1995).

Michael Jackson, director of

Lovely jubbly: How Del Boy and Rodney took the Beeb to the top



Del Boy: David Jason

Viewing figures for top 10 programmes on all channels last year

1. Only Fools and Horses - 24.35 million, BBC1, 29 December
2. EastEnders - 22.7 million, BBC1, 25 & 29 December (a)
3. Coronation Street - 21.3 million, ITV, 28 February & 1 March (a)
4. Casualty - 18.05 million, BBC1, 24 February
5. A Touch of Frost - 17.57 million, ITV, 4 February
6. One Foot in the Grave - 17.47 million, BBC1, 26 December
7. Euro 96: England v Germany - 17.46 million, BBC1, 26 June (b)
8. You've Been Framed - 17.34 million, ITV, 27 October
9. Heartbeat - 16.69 million, ITV, 27 October
10. The National Lottery Live 16.62 million, BBC1, 6 January

(a) Denotes an aggregate audience.
(b) ITV's coverage of this match was seen by a further 6.3 million viewers.



Rodney: Nicholas Lyndhurst

television and the controller of BBC1, said: "In the year of our 60th anniversary, viewers couldn't have given us a better birthday present than their support."

At 25 hours and nine minutes a week, average viewing of all channels declined by just one minute last year compared to 1995. The BBC's share was 11 hours and four minutes (up on last year by 10 minutes).

ITV's share was eight hours and 50 minutes (down 32 minutes) while Channel 4 attracted two hours 42 minutes. Viewing of cable and satellite increased by 24 minutes to two hours 32 minutes.

Mr Jackson pointed to the success of BBC programmes in 1996 for its success, including *Our Friends in the North*, *The House*, *Ballykissangel*, *Hamish Macbeth* and *The Crow Road*.

But Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast, although applauding the "vote of confidence" from the audience, sounded a note of warning.

"We must be realistic about the tough challenges facing us in 1997," he said. "The competition will intensify with the arrival of Channel 5 and other new cable and satellite services."

ITV said yesterday that it

could not vouch for the accuracy of the BBC's figures because it quantified its statistics differently.

However, a spokeswoman conceded: "The BBC are certainly doing better, but they still have a long way to go before they reach ITV's dominant 40 per cent share of the peak-time audience, which is more than 6 per cent ahead of BBC1 according to our figures."

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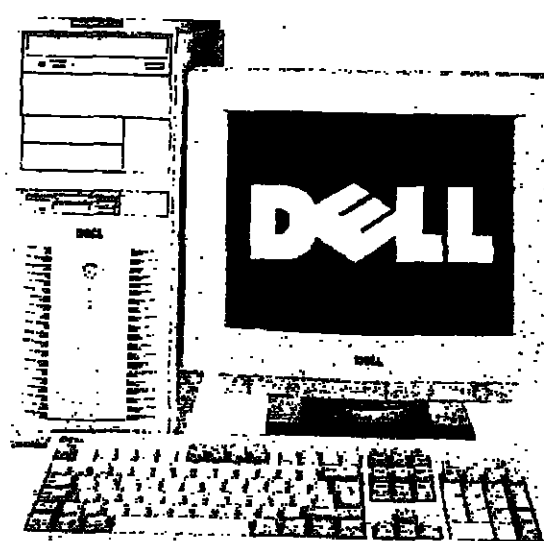
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Banana economics: buy 942lb of fruit, give it away – and end up £25 in profit

Richard Smith

Physicist Phil Calcott always wanted to make a grand gesture. So the chance to give away nearly half a ton of free bananas proved utterly irresistible.

The idea came to the 25-year-old scientist when he saw a special offer at his local Tesco supermarket. "They had this offer on where you could buy three pounds of bananas for £1.17 and get 25 points on your Tesco Club card, which you could redeem for goods worth £1.25," said Mr Calcott.

"I did a mental calculation and it seemed you couldn't lose. Basically they were paying shoppers eight pence to take away three pounds of bananas."

Mr Calcott was so convinced the two-week offer was ripe for the taking that he spent £367.38

buying up 942lbs of Tesco bananas. Supermarket staff twice had to stack up a trolley seven feet high with bananas and wheel it outside to Mr Calcott's Peugeot 205.

"I took a car load at a time because even with the back seat down and the boot full I could only fit in 460lbs of bananas," said Mr Calcott.

He continued: "Tesco were very helpful. They put the bananas on a trolley and loaded them up for me. But when I popped back for some more they said they were not doing any more bulk orders and would only sell me one case, which is quite understandable because they seemed to be making a loss on it."

"At one stage my living room was stacked from floor to ceiling with 25 cases containing

around 3,000 bananas." Mr Calcott then set about giving away the fruits of his labour.

"Some people were dreadfully suspicious because they couldn't conceive of anybody giving something away," said Mr Calcott who works at a Government defence establishment.

"Yesterday I took 70 pounds of bananas to give to friends at work and they have made me a badge which says 'The Banana King'. The only abusive reaction I had was after giving a bunch of bananas to a woman at her home. As I walked down the garden path her husband shouted 'It's money we want - not bananas'."

"Children in the street now shout 'Bananaman' whenever they see me," he added.

"All I have left are two bunches of bananas for my own consumption - and that's it. Giving away things for free has always appealed to me - just to see how people would react. It's been great fun and I'd definitely do it again. I'm waiting for Tesco to do a special offer on pineapples because I am rather partial to them."

Mr Calcott now has almost 8,000 Tesco Club card points and his banana spending spree has netted him a £25.12 profit - although it must be spent on goods at the store.

Tesco said its promotion - which ends this weekend - was not due to a banana glut but was simply the latest special offer to card holders. A spokeswoman said she had not heard of any shoppers loading up with cheap bananas. "It's not what we had in mind. But if people choose to do it then it's up to them."



Now he has no bananas: Physicist Phil Calcott with some of his money-making Tesco harvest Photograph: Peter Lea

DAILY POEM

Goose Hymn

By MR Peacocke

We tub us oge
It like we two legi
Two blue eye
It dict us born

It warm us dict us lib
It look us tub feed us
going out comin in
Mind it mangy boot

It go unwingly
Lub it corny corny cop ya
Mind it strongy finger
it strongy anger

It frighten we
It mighty mighty alway
It might alway
migh dict us die

"Goose Hymn" appears in *Selves* by MR Peacocke (Peterloo Poets). It was described by Penelope Fitzgerald in her Books of the Year choice for *The Independent* as "sourish observations by geese in a brilliantly invented language of their own".

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politics

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

SCORING THE EXCHANGES


Michael Heseltine
3/10

A distinctly non-sparking performance from the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for Major who was returning from the Indian sub-continent. Many of yesterday's questions were on health, and Heseltine appeared badly prepared.

Anne Taylor
5/10

John Prescott was on his way to Hong Kong, so his place was taken by Taylor, Shadow Leader of the House. Heseltine was open to attack on many fronts, but Taylor seemed determined to become less specific in her questioning as she went on.

TAYLOR'S ATTACK

Taylor's first question was on a survey about the NHS, to which Heseltine replied with standard-issue statistics and a rather familiar phrase about the health service being safe in Tory hands. He later went on to assert that beds could not be kept empty in readiness for emergency cases - an odd argument which it might have been worth Taylor's while to pursue. A second-rank contest, both in terms of competitors and arguments.

THEMES OF THE DAY

- Recent child malnutrition survey (Nick Ainger, Lab, Perm broke)
- Low morale among teachers (Ieuan Wyn Jones, Plaid, Yrws Mon)
- Assisted public-school places (Michael Fabricant, C, Mid-Staffordshire)
- Labour local education authorities' records (Tony Marlow, C, Northampton)

GOOD DAY...



John Cummings (Lab, Easington) came up with a specific health question (on a young constituent needing emergency treatment) to which Heseltine had shown he would be vulnerable. Heseltine lived down to expectations.



Betty Boothroyd The Speaker allowed two anti-Labour questions from Conservative MPs which were not about Government policy (and were therefore inadmissible) before she noticed the trend and stopped the third.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY



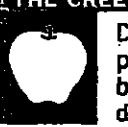
Robert Dunn (C, Dartford) said: "Local government in Manchester, Liverpool, Lambeth and Islington is inefficient and incompetent... the party opposite could not even run a bath."

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION



Tony Marlow was the third Conservative in a row to begin to ask a question unrelated to Government policy. After being caught out, Mr Marlow had to write the question off as a bad job and ask something completely different.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY



Dame Elaine Kelegh-Bowman (C, Lancaster) appeared in an electric blue outfit and further brightened a miserable Deputy Prime Minister's day by asking whether he thought Prescott was absent from the chamber because he was afraid of him.

Compiled by Ben Summers

Labour warns of one-party state

Latest campaign concedes the possibility of a fifth Tory term

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Labour last night warned of the risk of a "one-party state" if the Tories win a fifth term in the election. Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, is to launch a new Labour campaign tomorrow, in which he will warn of the risks of another Tory government.

"What our campaign will show is that the real risk is a fifth term, and the Tory party beginning to feel that they can get away with anything because we live in a one-party state," he said last night.

"People should think twice about the devil they know, before they get burnt again."

In a speech to Scottish Labour MPs last night, the party leader, Tony Blair, said: "Make no mistake about the desperation of the Tories. They will do anything, say anything, to hang on to power. They think they have a divine right to rule."

"The Tory fifth term does not bear thinking about. The collapse of the health service. Another explosion of crime. Falling further down the educational league. No devolution, no Scottish Parliament and a threat to the Union from a government which refuses to listen. You know my mantra against complacency. I say it again tonight. Nothing is guaranteed. There is as yet not a single vote won."

The defeatist and high-risk strategy of conceding the chance of Conservative victory has been deliberately taken by the Labour leadership because of real fears that John Major could capitalise on the strong public perception - even among Tory voters - that Labour will win.

That view is thought to be so strong that Labour believes not only that its supporters might take victory for granted and not bother to vote, but that some marginal Tory supporters might give Mr Major a sympathy vote in the belief that he cannot possibly win. "Those factors combined, could help the Tories to victory," one Labour source said.

Tomorrow's Labour campaign will be based on the party's private polling evidence that fear of Labour is far outweighed by fear of what a fifth Tory government would do - running down the NHS; reducing school choice; allowing crime to rise; and increasing taxes.

Fuelling speculation - and sowing confusion - about election timing, Mr Major yesterday told reporters covering his tour of Pakistan that he might yet hold out for a 1 May election.

Mr Major said: "I am prepared to play it long, yes, of course I am prepared to play it long."

He said that while his party would, naturally, be ready for the election when he chose to call it, "We would prefer to have the election a little later. I suspect that we will... We wish to see the effects of our policies flow through."

He added: "I think when we get into the election campaign, when people begin to focus on the policies of the two parties, that is when they will ask serious questions. They will say, are things going right now and would they change if we changed government and changed policies?"

He said Labour's support was "quite wide but not very deep", and he said Labour had been in opposition for so long that they had become "so good at it they should stay there."

Ethnic vote for Tories so small that party has nothing to lose by chasing it

Anthony Bevins

The Government was yesterday accused of pandering to racism, while the Conservative Party was making strenuous efforts to woo the Asian vote.

Bill Morris, the general secretary of the transport workers' union TGWU, said in an appeal to the black community: "It is inconceivable to support a government which has so often pandered to racism, most recently with the notorious Asylum and Immigration Bill."

But he told *The Independent* that the big issue that had to be

addressed by all political parties - including Labour - was the opt-out from democracy, with an estimated 90 per cent of young black people not voting.

The Conservatives are nevertheless making a strong pitch for the Asian vote in the run-up to the next election.

Following his prolonged visit to the Indian subcontinent, John Major will on Saturday address a London rally to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Indian and Pakistani independence.

But Shamit Sagar, senior lecturer in politics at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, and director of the ethnic minority side of the definitive British Election Studies, said

Tory support was so low among the Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities that the Conservatives had "nothing to lose".

Mr Sagar said the Labour lead among Asian and the Afro-Caribbean communities was overwhelming. Aggregate figures collated by MORI for 1995 put Labour ahead by 80 percentage points to 15 for the Conservatives, while the lead for the remaining ethnic minority community was even greater - with Labour ahead by 87 points to 8 for the Tories.

Mr Sagar was sceptical about suggestions that the ethnic minority vote could swing a number of marginal constituencies. But a 1992 election study

carried out by the Commission for Racial Equality said: "In at least three constituencies, a Conservative victory is attributable to ethnic-minority support."

In Edmonton (north London), Ian Twinn had a majority of 593 and this study suggests that 718 voters were ethnic-minority electors were placed for the Conservatives. For Terry Dicks in Hayes and Harlington the figures were 53 and 410, while for John Watts in Slough they were 514 and 867.

Mr Sagar, who is preparing a 1997 election comparison of the voting behaviour of black and white voters - the first time such an exercise has been

carried out, said there was no evidence that the ethnic minority vote could be mobilised to win or lose seats.

He described the suggestion that the ethnic minority vote could be used in that way as "a hollow threat".

As for the widespread view that Mr Major's visit to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan had to any degree been motivated by a push for the Asian vote, a Tory spokeswoman last night dismissed that as nonsense.

"I suppose," she said, "you will be saying that John Prescott's current visit to Hong Kong is a bid for the Chinese restaurant vote?"

Leading article, page 11



Shadow voters: Muslims at prayer in a mosque in Bradford, West Yorkshire

Photograph: Katz

Manchester airport to get second runway

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

Ministers are set to give the go-ahead for the second runway at Manchester airport, allowing it to take up to 30 million passengers per year by 2005, double the present total.

The second runway was the subject of a 101-day public inquiry which ended last summer. The inspector's report, giving approval for the scheme, is expected to be published today.

Supporters of the new runway argued that it will create thousands of local jobs and is essential for the economic well-being of the area.

Nevertheless, it has been bitterly opposed by local community groups who claimed it would cause widespread environmental damage.

Jeff Gazzard, who lives under the flightpath and who is spokesman for the Manchester Airport Environment Network (Maen) said: "This will ruin our area. An ancient woodland, twenty houses, six of them listed, and a thousand acres of green-belt land are being sacrificed."

Mr Gazzard said that Maen would be looking closely at the report and would seek a judicial review in the High Court if there was any suspicion that procedures had not been properly followed.

The highly profitable airport is owned by a consortium of ten local authorities and the councils have resisted efforts by the Government to force them to privatise it.

Manchester airport is the

third largest in the United Kingdom, after Gatwick and Heathrow, and caters for charter and long-haul flights. The new two-mile runway will allow the number of take-offs and landings to increase from 41 per hour to a maximum of 68 to 70. It will cost £170m to build and will be a blow to nearby Liverpool which had hoped to expand its own airport as an alternative.

The Government approval will be accompanied by strict environmental conditions, but Mr Gazzard says that these are irrelevant.

"We have lost the battle because we are 200 miles away from London," he said. "This would never be allowed in the south-east where Gatwick and Stansted have been protected from having second runways."

Blair calls on SNP to back devolution

Tony Blair last night challenged the Scottish National Party to "get off the fence" and say whether it would back Labour's devolution plans.

The Labour leader urged the SNP to make clear whether its supporters would fight for a "yes" vote in a referendum on a Scottish Parliament.

"It is time the SNP got off the fence," Mr Blair told the Scottish Labour group of MPs. "Here is the party that says it stands up for Scotland and yet is prepared to stand alongside the Tories in opposing our plans for a Scottish Parliament."

Mr Blair emphasised Labour's commitment to establishing a Scottish Parliament following a referendum.

Ban on deadly bull bars urged by MP

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

New moves to ban the use of bull bars on British roads were launched in Parliament yesterday by a Labour MP.

Faith Flynn, the member for Newport West, is making a second attempt to prevent the use of the bars, which are said to have been responsible for a number of deaths. Last year he introduced a similar Bill which ran out of time after being "talked out" by a minister.

Mr Flynn said the metal bars, used in Australia to protect cars from kangaroos, were of use in this country only to farmers and ram-raiders. Six per cent of deaths and a fifth of serious injuries caused by vehicles fitted

with them could be prevented if they were removed, he said.

The bars could also be dangerous to the driver of the vehicle, the MP added. "We know of a long, sad litany of casualties who have died because of what is a macho fashion. There is no sensible reason to have the fronts of cars cluttered in that way," Mr Flynn told the house.

Earlier, he held a press conference with Ann Baggs from Whitley, in Wiltshire, whose 10-year-old daughter Helen died after being hit by a Land Rover Discovery fitted with bull bars in July 1995.

Mr Flynn's Bill was given an unopposed first reading but will not become law without full Government support because of pressure on parliamentary time.

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How to get a doctor thoroughly plastered – in three easy stages



Paul Scarrow shivered in a leotard and hid his embarrassment behind a curtain, writes Esther Leach. Dr Scarrow, 37, a GP from Retford, Nottinghamshire, was preparing to have his whole body covered in moulding materials and



plaster to create a life-size glass-fibre model that will stand in an exhibit depicting a Victorian operating theatre in the new £5m Thackray Museum in Leeds. Karl Furre, of Karl Furre Figures and Design of York, is creating the model from the



castings which will then be fitted with glass eyes, a wig and costume. The modelling session was a prize in the BBC's Children in Need auction last year. The Scarrow family bid £2,650 for the privilege. Photographs: Steve Forrest

Accused tax man found comfort in prostitute

Graham Ball

Michael Allcock, the tax inspector accused of taking bribes from foreign businessmen, was close to tears as he told an Old Bailey jury yesterday how he turned to a prostitute as he struggled to cope with his wife's cancer.

Mr Allcock halted several times while giving his account of his mother's death from cancer in 1980, and his anguish when his wife was diagnosed as having the same disease eight years later.

He told how he and his wife, Sally, had nursed her mother for the last six weeks of her life and how this experience had affected them deeply.

When his wife's condition was identified, he said: "We knew too much, we'd been there, constantly, 24 hours a day and we had experienced her disintegration and death."

Mr Allcock went on to explain that his wife was in intense pain for two years and his seven-year-old son had nightmares, fearing his mother was about to die.

He said that his way of dealing with the crisis was to spend freely without considering the consequences.

"I carried on spending. I didn't care what I spent. I thought I'd either extend or repay loans at the bank. That was the mood I was in," he said.

The prosecution has alleged that during this time Mr Allcock received bribes totalling £150,000 from businessmen who owed substantial sums to the Inland Revenue.

Galaxies found with a hole in the middle

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

Most galaxies in the universe are like a Polo mint: they have a hole in the middle, according to new research using the Hubble Space Telescope.

Unlike terrestrial sweets, though, the centre of galaxies is not empty space but a super-massive black hole, with a mass millions of times that of our Sun.

The results emerge from a study of 27 "nearby" galaxies by the orbiting observatory, and gives astronomers an important clue to how galaxies develop and age. Notably, the findings help to explain the phenomenon of quasars – incredibly powerful sources of energy which are observed in very young galaxies.

The three key findings are that nearly every large galaxy has a supermassive black hole at its centre; that its mass is proportional to the galaxy's size; and that the number and mass of the black holes discovered are consistent with the requirements to power the quasars that have been observed.

According to Doug Richstone of the University of Michigan, who led the international team of astronomers, "most galaxies at one time burned as brightly as a quasar". Black holes are created as the galaxy forms and gas collects at its centre, eventually forming an enormously heavy star, whose gravity becomes so enormous as it collapses in on itself that not even light can escape.

A quasar is the result of gas falling into the black hole: as it approaches the vortex it accelerates almost to the speed of light, emitting vast quantities of radiation. "Gas falling into a black hole is the most efficient power source that we know of," said Sir Martyn Rees, of the Institute of Astronomy, yesterday. "Occasionally a star might get swallowed ... but that's only a tiny fraction of the total mass of the galaxy."

Eventually though, the quasar will burn itself out, leaving only the black hole that powered it. "We believe we are looking at fossil quasars," said Professor Richstone.

However the results, announced at this week's annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society, do not provide any answer for the "missing mass" of the universe, said Sir Martyn. "These black holes have a mass only about one-thousandth that of their parent galaxy," he said. But astronomers are looking for much bigger amounts of unseen mass: the observed galaxies account for only a few per cent at most of the mass of the universe.



Moving house may pose asthma danger

Liz Hunt
Health Editor

Moving house may be a significant factor in the development of asthma and other allergic diseases, according to new research carried out in the Scottish Highlands where there is an unexpectedly high prevalence of wheezing.

Doctors at the Royal Northern Infirmary in Inverness say that increasing mobility of families in developed countries may have contributed to the dramatic rise in the prevalence of asthma in children.

They suggest that exposure to new environmental allergens – the molecules that trigger an allergic reaction – in a new house, or another factor involved in moving house, may be a risk factor for the disease, and more significant than pollution, central heating, or other previously identified factors.

Dr Jane Austin and her colleagues, writing in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, say there is not enough evidence to prove a causal link, and that their findings may be due to chance. However, a small study published in the *British Medical Journal* recently also suggested a possible link between moving house and asthma.

The new survey of more than 1,500 children aged 12 and 14 from the Highlands indicates that asthma, coughing and eczema were more likely to occur in children who have lived for a short time in their homes. More than one-third of the children surveyed had lived in their current house for five years or less.

One in four children living in the Highlands is affected by a wheezing disorder at some time in his or her life, and the incidence is rising. The number of prescriptions for asthma drugs in all age groups rose by 28 per cent between 1990 and 1995. Previous studies by the same doctors have shown that the rate of asthmatic symptoms is as high as that reported in urban areas in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Dr Austin said that the Highlands were "ideally suited" to the study of indoor environmental factors which might be related to the prevalence of asthma.

Overall, almost one in five of the children who took part in the survey said he or she was suffering from a current wheeziness; almost one in 10 had a cough for three months of the year; 18 per cent suffered from eczema, and 21 per cent from hay fever.



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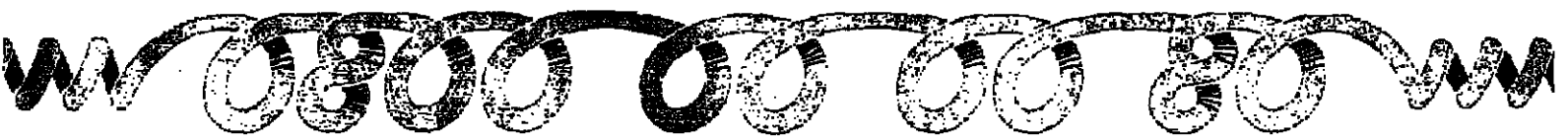
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international

Cyprus: Fears of armed conflict counter American optimism

Turkish anger grows at Russia missile deal

Christopher Bellamy
Defence Correspondent

Russia should back out of its deal to sell advanced surface-to-air missiles to the Greek republic of Cyprus in order to avoid inflaming the eastern Mediterranean, and the United Nations should impose an immediate arms embargo on all further weapon supplies to the island, Turkey's ambassador to Britain told *The Independent* yesterday.

He repeated earlier Turkish threats that if the missiles were installed the Turks would destroy them. Senior British government sources expressed grave concern about the situation which could lead to more than a war of words between Greece and Turkey - both members of the North Atlantic alliance.

The British sources said they wanted "confidence building measures" - shared channels of communication - between

Greece and Turkey to reduce the risk of a shooting war. "It would not be responsible to allow these two allies to be drawn into conflict on the basis of a spur-of-the-moment decision by a Second Lieutenant" [the most junior officer], the government source said.

Speaking to *The Independent*, the Turkish ambassador, Ozdem Sanberk, agreed. He said improved links between Greece and Turkey would inevitably filter down to opposing forces on the island - the most heavily militarised place in Europe.

Turkey has been enraged by the signature on 4 January of a deal to buy the Russian missiles, in what Mr Sanberk said was a "flagrant breach" of UN Security Council Resolution 1992 of 23 December, which expressed "grave concern about the excessive levels of military forces and arms in the Republic of Cyprus" - fingering the Greeks, not the Turks. The Russian S-300 missiles, known to NATO

as SA-10s, codenamed "Grumble", are similar to United States Patriots, and also have a limited ability to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles.

They can fire out to 90 miles and hit aircraft up to an altitude of 88,000ft, so they could easily bring down Turkish warplanes or even airliners carrying tourists to Turkey's southern coast. But what really worries the Turks is that the missiles can be converted to carry chemical or biological warheads, and be exploded high over a city.

"I don't know why they want them", said Mr Sanberk. "Russia has a responsibility as a member of the Security Council. The Russians shouldn't have sold them these things".

A Russian official visited Cyprus to sign the deal on 4 January. The Turks say the Greek Cypriots are spending \$2m (£1.2m) a day on arms and had recently bought 40 Russian T-80 tanks. They apparently want the Russian missiles to defend a

new air and naval base being built at Paphos. Until now, Turkey has enjoyed virtually unchallenged air superiority over the island.

Mr Sanberk said he supported the establishment of new ties between Greece and Turkey, which at the moment can only communicate through NATO. Greece is a full member of the European Union and the Western European Union defence pact; Turkey is not.

Mr Sanberk told *The Independent* that Turkey needed to join the European Union to sort out the Cyprus problem. "NATO has only one dimension - security. The EU is multi-dimensional," he said. He said he favoured a Bosnian-style solution, with two distinct entities to preserve the distinct cultural identities and interests of Greeks and Turks, but some form of joint presidency over the whole island.

"There is only one way," he said, "to live side by side but separately in one island".

Commentators, page 13

US 'success' heads for failure

Tony Barber
Europe Editor

The United States claimed success yesterday in reducing military tensions between the Greek and Turkish communities of Cyprus, but the island's Greek Cypriot-led government said it was premature to talk of a breakthrough.

Speaking after talks in Athens with Greek officials, a special US envoy, Carey Cavanaugh, said there was no longer a crisis on Cyprus and that Greek-Turkish tensions were under control for the moment.

"The purpose of my trip to the region was to, as much as possible, reduce tension that really soared this year," Mr Cavanaugh said. During earlier talks in Nicosia, he had formed the impression that the Cyprus government would not implement its threat to deploy Russian anti-aircraft missiles.



President Glafcos Clerides: 'No new agreement'

Mr Cavanaugh said that he had received Greek and Turkish Cypriot promises of full support for measures to reduce tensions along the United Nations-patrolled buffer zone dividing Cyprus. These include the unloading of live ammunition

from sentries' weapons along either side of the 110-mile ceasefire line, the unarming of forward positions and the acceptance of a code of conduct for soldiers.

Agreement on such relatively marginal issues might ease tensions that developed after the Cyprus government announced its planned missile purchase and Turkey threatened a military strike in response. Mistrust was already running high on Cyprus after several people were killed along the UN buffer zone last summer in the worst violence since the 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriots seemed surprised that Mr Cavanaugh had declared his diplomatic intervention a success. "There has not been any agreement other than that which was already in place, that the military dialogue would continue based

on what is stipulated in the relevant resolution of the United Nations," President Glafcos Clerides said.

The dispute is but one part of a bigger picture that shows a seemingly inexorable deterioration in relations between NATO allies Greece and Turkey.

Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, taunted Greece and the Greek Cypriots yesterday by reminding them of their sufferings at Turkish hands during previous wars in this century. "The Greeks know us very well and have experience on this subject. They saw the results of what they tried to do in 1922 and 1974, and I hope history does not repeat itself," he said.

Mr Cavanaugh, who visits Ankara today, stressed that Mr Clerides had assured him that "not a single component" of the Russian missiles would arrive on Cyprus in the next 16 months.



Gun law: Israeli police evict a Bedouin from a camp near Jerusalem to make way for a Jewish settlement

Photograph: AP

Midnight meeting raises hope of Hebron solution

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, were scheduled to meet at the Erez crossing point into Gaza at midnight last night to iron out remaining differences preventing an agreement for Israel to withdraw immediately from Hebron and set a date for a partial pull-out from the West Bank.

"The main substantive issues have been resolved," said Nicholas Burns, the US State Department spokesman, in Washington. "Only a few minor details are left. Exceedingly minor."

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were more cautious, saying some problems still need to be resolved, but the main features of the long-delayed accord are now in place.

Under the agreement Israeli troops will almost immediately withdraw from most of Hebron, a Palestinian town with a population of 120,000 in the centre of which live 52 Jewish families. To protect them Hebron will be partitioned, with 20

per cent of the city remaining under Israeli control. This part of the accord is little different from that signed by the last Israeli government in 1995.

Under a further part of the

Mr Arafat's refusal to make an agreement over Hebron alone appears to have paid off

accord, brokered by King Hussein of Jordan at the weekend, Israel has promised to redeploy its troops on the West Bank and evacuate Palestinian villages in three stages, completing the withdrawal by 31 August 1998. This is a year later than agreed in the original Oslo Two accords, signed in 1995.

Despite agreement on a date for the Israeli withdrawal there is no understanding about the extent of the territory where Is-

rael is to cede control. Mr Arafat expects some 90 per cent of the West Bank, but Mr Netanyahu says Israel may only withdraw from half, refusing to give up the Jordan valley, the desert east of Jerusalem and other "specified military locations".

Vagueness about the extent of Israeli redeployment sets the scene for future political crises.

But more immediately the Israeli and Palestinian leaders will have to resolve other issues still in dispute, including extradition to Israel of Palestinians who have killed Israelis, veto over appointments in the Palestinian police in Hebron and amendments to the Palestinian covenant, which Israel says still calls for the destruction of Israel.

Also to be addressed in the accord are Palestinian demands for the opening of a passage between Gaza and the West Bank, release of prisoners and the Palestinian airport being built at Gaza.

Mr Netanyahu and his advisers are saying that future redeployment hinges on the Palestinians fulfilling their part of the agreement. Such is the

distrust between the two sides that the US is to issue guarantees that the two sides will meet their commitments.

Mr Netanyahu is manoeuvring to persuade his cabinet to vote for the agreement which requires him to demonstrate that he has improved on the 1995 terms negotiated by the Labour government voted out of office last May. Seven out of 18 ministers are said to oppose the deal, but it is expected to go through because it has majority in the Knesset (parliament), where it will be supported by the left and Israeli-Arabs.

From Mr Arafat's point of view his strategy of refusing to make an agreement on Hebron alone, but to demand dates for further Israeli redeployment from the villages, where 900,000 of 1.3 million Palestinians on the West Bank live, appears to have paid off.

He is also on the verge of getting a grudging commitment from a right-wing Israeli government to give up land on the West Bank, which many of its members see as the Land of Israel, the land God gave to the Jews.

Serbs party in the snow all night to mark end of Milosevic ice age

Steve Crawshaw
Belgrade

Through parted net curtains in the darkened offices of President Slobodan Milosevic, two men stood gazing out the streets of Belgrade in the early hours of yesterday morning. On those streets, hundreds of thousands had come to celebrate Serbian New Year with a joyful condemnation of the Milosevic regime.

It seemed logical to expect that the two government employees would disapprove of such lack of respect. But in Belgrade the spirit of rebellion is infectious. With scant loyalty to their boss, the two men gave a thumbs up to the demonstrators, whose main demand has been the recognition of opposition election victories in November, and whose main desire is the fall of Mr Milosevic himself.

Even policemen seem eager to change sides. One of the few on duty yesterday suggested his heart was with the demonstrators: "I would be glad to tell you what I think - but I don't dare."

In a sense, it was the party to end all parties. No sign of drugs, and little alcohol. Just a celebration, where hundreds of thousands seemed intoxi-

cated by the possibility of change. As one headline put it: "Happy New Serbia." Or, in the words of the liberal daily *Nasa Borba*: "The energy which astonished the world."

Long before midnight on Monday night, it was well nigh impossible to move near Republic Square, venue for the celebration. Some of Serbia's best-known actors and musicians were due to appear, to see in the New Year according to the Orthodox Church calendar.

The streets were thronged with an estimated half million Serbs, who together created a deafening cacophony of little plastic whistles, signifying "game over!" for Mr Milosevic. But despite the exploding firecrackers the gathering passed off peacefully. In the official media, the event was passed over in near silence. But the reality could not be ignored: this is the beginning of something different for Serbia.

This was a brighter, more cheerful Belgrade than has been seen in recent years. The jubilation did not come from victory. Yesterday's key retreat, when the opposition's election victories in the cities of Belgrade and Nis were acknowledged, came hours after the partying protesters had gone to bed. It came from self-confidence: the

belief in Belgrade that though muddy snow lies roundabout, the political ice age is over.

Jelena Vencel, 22, a student, said: "Now we've got a new spirit. I think about my future. I can be a scientist anywhere in the world. But I think Serbian society is changing, and I want to stay here." Nikola Urošević, 38, an electrical engineer, insisted: "It has to be a happy new year. Any change will be for the better. This fool has to go."

"Forces of chaos and madness," says a favourite demonstrators' badge, mocking official accusations. In reality, the chaos and madness seem to emanate from the government. Gordana

Markovic, a dentist in her fifties, said: "If you had asked me two months ago, I would have said it's impossible [for so many people to come together in opposition to the government]. But now there's no fear."

Dragan, a chemical engineer, said: "I can hold my head up. After all these years, I can say: 'I'm proud to be a Serb'."

But few of the students have much time for the organised opposition. On Monday night, Vuk Draskovic, an opposition leader with a nationalist past, attacked students as "idiots". Apparently they were failing to acknowledge the leading role of those like Mr Draskovic.

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Bulgaria foes deadlocked on poll date

Hopes that Bulgaria's crisis was heading towards resolution were dashed as both sides remained at loggerheads over elections. The ruling Socialists spoke of forming a new government that would be in office for 500 days; opposition leaders urged the dissolution of parliament by March and an election in May. Thousands of workers are to strike today in support of opposition demands.

Adrian Bridge

Mandela hits at Washington over arms row

President Nelson Mandela's spokesman accused the United States of trying to bully South Africa over a proposed arms deal with Syria and said Pretoria would not be dictated to. "We detect this kind of behaviour," the spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, said in response to a US threat to cut aid to South Africa if it went ahead with the \$1.5bn (£400m) sale.

Reuter - Cape Town

US and France mend fences

Paris and Washington are to consult regularly on Africa policy in an apparent attempt to prevent disagreements of the kind that arose recently over Zaire. The meetings, which France initiated, became public with the arrival in Paris of George Moose, US deputy secretary of state for African Affairs, for two days of talks, described by sources as "regular consultations".

Mary Djevsky - Paris

Baby-case trial delayed

A Romanian court adjourned again the trial of a British, John Boast, accused of smuggling babies out of the country, and summoned a "key prosecution witness" to testify in the case. Mr Boast, 46, a self-described charity worker from Great Harwood, Lancashire, was first charged a year ago with smuggling a 15-month-old Romanian gypsy girl over the border with Hungary, to Britain.

Reuter - Oradea

Sudan rebels on offensive

The Sudan People's Liberation Army said rebel forces captured government garrisons at Al-Kali, Daimonsour and Shali al-Fil in the Blue Nile region. A spokesman in Eritrea said the operation was carried out by a joint force of the umbrella opposition group, the National Democratic Alliance.

Reuter - Asmara

Peking warns the Vatican

Peking told the Vatican not to meddle in China's religious affairs, including appointments of religious leaders and in missionary work. "China acts in line with its own national circumstances in administering its religious affairs," a spokesman said.

Reuter - Peking

Iraqi opposition presses for war crimes trials

Robert Fisk Beirut

The "indictments" are quite specific. Taha Yaseen Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, "ordered the murder of a group of suspected insurgents by having tanks run over their heads" after the 1991 Gulf War. As commander of the Iraqi Popular Army, he "allegedly raped a number of women". Wathab Ibrahim Al-Hasan Al-Tikriti, the Iraqi Minister of the Interior, "took part in the mass summary executions of suspected dissidents" during the suppression of the March uprising around Baghdad. Mohamed Hamza al-Zubaidi "is recorded on official government videotape kicking and beating people in the head in the city of Nassiriya during the uprising". Aziz Salih al-Noman, while governor of Kerbala and Najaf, "personally ordered the wanton destruction of holy sites, ancient libraries and graveyards".

The Iraqi opposition, which open their campaign for war crime indictments against Saddam Hussein's henchmen in London tonight, have even catalogued the wickedness of the "little men", the military officers whose names are largely unknown in the West. There is, for example, Lieutenant-Colonel Abdel-Karim Al-Jouhaili, "directly responsible for the murder and burning of 700 women, children and elderly persons" in Souray. Major General Rashaash Al-Imara, accused of participating in the chemical bombing of the Kurdish town of Halabja in 1988, and Major General Hisham Fakhri, a military governor who allegedly



Wanted: Taha Ramadan (top) and Al-Hasan Al-Tikriti

participated in mass executions in Basra in 1991. Saddam Hussein himself and his son Uday would face - if the Iraqi opposition had their way - charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

But who believes that the Iraqi regime will ever go on trial? The Iraqi National Congress (INC), which lost dozens of its supporters to President Saddam's death squads in last year's Iraqi offensive in Kurdistan, claims that there is a case in international law. So apparently does Warren Christopher, the

former United States Secretary of State, and his successor, Madeleine Albright. And so does Ann Clwyd, MP, who will be hosting tonight's opening campaign at the House of Commons for Iraq's leadership to be brought before an international tribunal.

True, Baroness Thatcher and Danielle Mitterrand, Lord Archer and others are also supporting the campaign. But the atrocities of Bosnia proved how difficult it was to institute due process against war criminals. So who will overthrow President Saddam and hunt down the guilty men? Not the INC, who suffered from a bloody débacle in northern Iraq last year. Certainly not the Western powers which chose to allow Saddam to fight again another day when Kuwait was liberated in 1991.

And if Tehran rather than Baghdad becomes America's new Enemy Number One in the Middle East, then Saddam may be needed - as he was in 1980 - to re-invade Iran. Western leaders are indeed oddly uneasy about the idea of putting Saddam in the dock. While sending good wishes to the Iraqi opposition's campaign, John Major has talked of the difficulty of establishing "meaningful legal proceedings" under the Geneva Conventions or the International Court of Justice. Even odder is the Government's supposed determination to see Saddam deposed but its readiness to allow into Britain the Iranian opposition groups based in Baghdad - who live under the protection and with the active support of a well known name who tops the list of the Iraqi opposition's "indictments": Saddam Hussein.



Slick move: Japanese boats try clear some of the thousands of tons of oil leaked by a Russian tanker off Wajima, 200 miles north-west of Tokyo. Photograph: Reuter

Mother Teresa bows out

Jan McGirk New Delhi

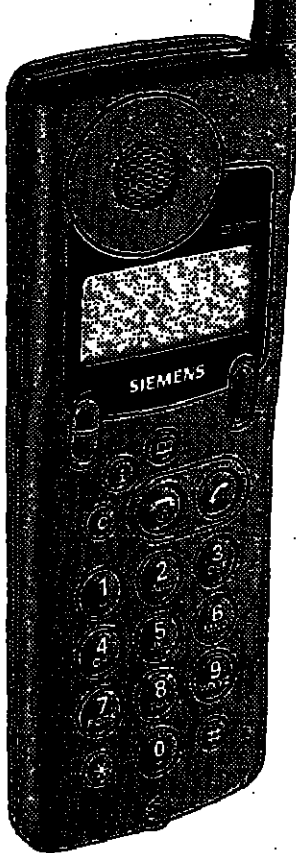
Mother Teresa's recent decision to relinquish the leadership of her order, the Missionaries of Charity, has drawn at least 122 senior nuns to Calcutta to choose her successor. Because the frail Nobel Peace Laureate has spent the past week confined to bed with acute back pains, the sisters have postponed yesterday's scheduled election until 2 February. "Anyone else in her condition would be admitted to hospital," one of her medical advisers said. "But Mother Teresa is adamant she won't go back."

Sensitive to criticism that she benefits from sophisticated medical attention which is unavailable to those at her Home for the Destitute and Dying, Mother Teresa is stubborn about following her doctors' advice. After heart attacks in November, the Albanian nun, 86, nearly died. Even after her heart was restarted by a team of five doctors, her weakened kidneys and respiratory problems complicated her recovery. The assembled nuns plan to retreat from Calcutta to the West Bengal countryside and individually "will seek guidance through prayer," a spokeswoman said. When they

reconvene on 28 January, they are likely to choose between two very different personalities. Sister Priscilla and Sister Frederica are the main contenders for Mother Teresa's challenging job. Sister Priscilla, who handles publicity from the Calcutta office, has the higher profile and sometimes gets testy with the international press. Sister Frederica, 78, is responsible for operations in the United States and is a tough disciplinarian. Unlike Mother Teresa, she avoids publicity. Neither woman is likely to match the charismatic style of the order's founder, who has never groomed a successor.

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Reducing Risks - Protecting People

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US capital pays for its \$4bn rescue

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

President Bill Clinton yesterday unveiled a \$4bn (£2.4bn) five-year rescue package for Washington DC, which at last offers a real prospect of recovery for the battered US capital - but effectively destroys any lingering hopes of it becoming the 51st state of the Union.

The plan, to be submitted as part of the 1998 federal budget, fulfils Mr Clinton's promise of speedy aid for a city which has lurched from crisis to crisis over the past five years. It was quickly supported by Mayor Marion Barry and most municipal leaders, and is broadly in line with steps advocated by the Speaker, Newt Gingrich, which can only raise the chances of approval by the Republican Congress.

The scheme is essentially a trade-off. The federal government will end its \$660m annual grant to the District of Columbia. In return it will take over the massively underfunded \$5bn pension scheme for DC employees, as well as the city's prison system, and most of its health care responsibilities to the poor, and spend \$1.4bn on Washington's decrepit roads and infrastructure. In all, say White House officials, a modest \$339m will be added to the federal budget deficit between 1998 and 2003.

The announcement has been timed to coincide with Mr Clinton's second inauguration next Monday, when America and the world will see the familiar Washington of broad avenues, gleaming public buildings and some of the most handsome urban vistas on earth.

A few blocks away, however, lurks the other Washington, a case study in the problems of America's decaying, predominantly black, inner cities. Thus

far this decade alone, 50,000 people - a tenth of its population - have fled to suburban Maryland and Virginia, further eroding a shrinking tax base.

A financial control board imposed by Congress to take over management of the city from Mr Barry is struggling to correct a 1996 budget deficit of \$90m. In the first 13 days of 1997, 19 people were murdered in the District. A headline in yesterday's *Washington Post* proclaimed that DC's infant mortality rate had fallen to a record low of 16 per 1,000 live births. That is still double the national average.

If the plan works, the haemorrhage of people and businesses will be staunchened and perhaps reversed. Meanwhile, the federal government's relationship to the capital will be placed on the same footing as a state's to a large city, of Illinois to Chicago, or of Colorado to Denver. In practice however, Washington's limited autonomy will be even more circumscribed.

Before financial difficulties became overwhelming in the early 1990s, the city had dreamed of extending the "home rule" it achieved in 1974 into full statehood as New Columbia, electing its own US senators and congressman. Then came economic downturn, the Barry drug debacle, his subsequent re-election as Mayor, and an ever-accelerating flight to the suburbs.

The White House plan would place many city services under direct control of federal agencies and still leave Congress with ultimate authority for the city budget - seen by many local residents as an injustice comparable to the "no taxation without representation" outcry that boiled over in the war for independence from Britain in 1776.



Frozen in time: The dome of the Legislative Council building, Hong Kong, (left) carved in ice at Harbin

Photograph: Calum MacLeod

Hong Kong ice palace melts into the mists of history

Teresa Poole
Peking

Hong Kong's Legislative Council building is doomed. Months before China regains sovereignty, this symbol of Hong Kong's fragile democracy is going to start shrinking before people's eyes. By the time the first spring flowers appear, the colonial monument will be no more than a puddle on the ground. In Harbin, that is.

In this far north-eastern Chinese city it will not be a case of dissolving parliament, but of simply letting it melt. For the showpiece this year at Harbin's annual ice-sculpture festival is the Hong Kong exhibit, complete with huge frozen replica of the dome-roofed council, a floating sea-food restaurant, and the Bank of China spire. There is even an icy version of a bustling downtown street. But visitors here are bundled up against the cold, rather than expiring from the humidity. Every night, thousands of visiting Chinese jostle to take photographs next to a countdown clock which is ticking away the days to 30 June when Hong Kong reverts to China.

Situated 250 miles from Russia, with temperatures falling to -30C for some months of the year, Harbin depends on the ice fair to attract tourists.

The festival was launched in 1963, but three years later it was halted by the Cultural Revolution. It was only when Maoism gave way to reform that ice festivals again became politically correct.

This year, some 20,000 square metres of ice were cut from the city's frozen Songhua river and 4,000 workers toiled for three weeks to build the fantasy park. The tallest ice buildings top 60 feet, and the Hong Kong exhibition is just one of 10 themed gardens. The festival is due to finish on 21 February, the first full moon of the Chinese New Year.

For the uninitiated, it can come as a surprise that the ice sculptures are not glistening white. Instead, bores are drilled through the ice and brightly coloured lights placed inside. When night falls, a switch lights up a fairytale of "ice lanterns".

Hong Kong-related sculptures have done well this year. A Swiss team won the international section, with an exhibit called "Return to Prosperity", about the transfer of sovereignty. And Harbin's own sculptors took the domestic prize for "The 1997 Swan Comes Back" depicting - you can guess -

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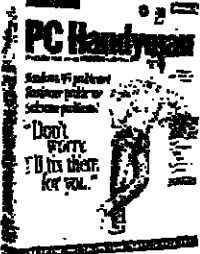
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Holocaust returns to haunt German television

Inre Karacs
Bonn

The collective memory is dredged up one more time by faded black-and-white images flickering on the screens, as millions of viewers sit glued to their television sets hoping not to catch a glimpse of a familiar face. The Holocaust is back.

Contrary to perceptions abroad, Germans cannot get enough of "ze war", but now relief is at hand. A six-part series entitled *Hitler's Helpers* kicked off on the second public channel last night, promising an exhaustive dissection of the Führer's most loyal boot-lickers.

It has been done before, but the latest block-buster, unlike all previous ones except a major series on Hitler himself, is German. "British and American television producers must not be allowed to dominate the business of depicting German history and its most sensitive period," says Guido Knopp, the director. "This is our own history, its dissemination is our duty."

Apart from the Eighties soap opera *Heimat*, the most successful stabs at the Nazi era have been foreign ones. *Schindler's List* remains the most memorable treatment of the period on the big screen.

German historical research has only recently started catching up with academics working abroad. Last year, the American scholar Daniel Goldhagen caused a storm with a book that accused the entire German nation of acting as "Hitler's willing executioners".

Mr Knopp has plans for a further series that will address the ultimate question of collective guilt. In the next two years, historians in Germany and Jerusalem are to sift through hundreds of thousands of secret Nazi documents for his next project, which seeks to establish how many Germans were mass murderers. "Goldhagen asked the right questions but gave the wrong answers," he says.

French unions fight for early retirement

Mary Dejevsky
Paris

French trade unions yesterday accused the government and employers of hypocrisy after a succession of senior politicians warned that reducing the retirement age to 55 was out of the question. So many people in their 50s were being given early retirement to suit state employers and big business, the unions said, that there was no reason not to introduce retirement at 55 for all.

The demand for earlier retirement is part of a trade union campaign for improved social benefits which, they argue, could also increase the number of jobs for young people. Despite a multiplicity of government schemes, France's unemployment rate, at 12.7 per cent, remains one of the highest in Europe, and one in four people under 25 has no job.

In what was seen by many as the thin end of a very big wedge, French lorry drivers won the possibility of retiring at the age of 55 from their two-week strike last year. Now the unions are seeking to build on this victory, encouraged by public concern in France about the unemployment level and unalloyed enthusiasm for the idea of a longer retirement.

At the end of last week, five unions called a national transport strike for 24 January in support of a demand for retirement at 55 for all transport workers. Train drivers already enjoy this condition; according to the strike settlement reached in December, lorry drivers will qualify for it after 20 years on the road. So it is local transport workers, including bus, tram and metro drivers, who are expected to spearhead the strike.

Although there were several local transport strikes through the autumn and most had only a limited impact, the government decided this time to take the initiative. Over the weekend, it launched a barrage of public statements rejecting the idea of retirement at 55 for all.

President Jacques Chirac himself released the first volley, telling an audience in his local

region of Corrèze that, while he understood the popular desire to retire earlier, "France cannot ignore economic and demographic realities". Two former



Alain Juppé: "No question of government bending"

Prime Ministers then weighed in, Edouard Balladur and Raymond Barre, who said the claim was "a very dangerous trend for the future" and urged the government "to hold the line".

The current Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, said that retire-

ment at 55 was "not possible financially" and that there was "no question of the government bending". Only those who worked more than 39 hours a week, he said, could have any claim to retire at 55.

Even the opposition Socialists and left-of-centre press seemed scared that retirement at 55 could become a popular rallying cry. The newspaper *Libération* called it a "simpleton's utopia", while several MPs not known as moderates warned that retirement at 55 could "not become a general rule".

Behind the politicians' statements lies the recognition that France's state pension system is in enough difficulty already without a new increase in the number of pensioners. Currently, employees' contributions are used to pay directly for the pensions of those already retired and several sectors are running short of money. A system of pension funds, and the possibility of private top-up pensions, is to be introduced, but there is a deep public suspicion of any change.

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A silly hat but a sophisticated message

Yesterday's pictures of John Major in a funny hat on the Hindu Kush are not going to win him a nomination for the milliners' Brit awards. His official talks in Delhi and Islamabad were hardly the stuff of high foreign policy. Yet there is something to be said for the modesty of Mr Major's demeanour on such trips abroad. This year, especially, the 50th anniversary of the end of the Raj, is a good one for a display of British prime ministerial humility in the sub-continent. But the Prime Minister was wearing his silly hat for a purpose, and a domestic political purpose at that. That hat was meant to say something reassuring about the relationship of the modern Tory party and Britain's south Asians.

The message can also be read in recent speeches and party political advertising. What it is intended to say, more or less, is that you (Asians) belong to us (Tories): Asian values are Tory values. Together we enthuse over economic aspiration based upon individual acquisitiveness, the desire to move on and up, but we don't forget respect for family and traditional sources of authority. Of course this is a gross caricature. There is no such thing as "Asian val-

ues". People in Southall of Sikh descent think and live very differently from Bradfordians of Bengali origin - and both tend to vote Labour anyway. The Tory appeal is aspirational, designed to appeal to younger, professional British Asians in the suburbs.

It will not win the election: Asian votes are unlikely to make much difference to the fates of Tory candidates in any but a small handful of seats. But there is something admirable about what the Tories are doing. They are being explicit about their view of the politics of race - saying, in effect, that identification by ethnicity may be less important than the conventional lines of political difference, which are material interest mixed up with related attitudes and values. In that way it seems rational for Conservatives, supporters of ownership and enterprise and liberal economics, to appeal to middle-class people who happen to be Asian.

Still, let's not get carried away. Today's Alf Garnett, if he votes at all, also votes Tory. Young Asian businessmen and women may be welcome as Tory voters but they are not yet being welcomed into the suburban golf clubs where the local Tory



party chairman goes to play. Were the Reigate Conservative Association finally to ditch Sir George Gardiner it is hard to believe that an Asian would be invited to succeed him. Party leaders were able to make John Taylor into a peer but they failed to persuade the local party to choose him as the party's standard-bearer in Cheltenham. It does not take a long political memory to recall which well-known Tory prime minister made concerted efforts to wind up the Commission for Racial Equality - a body which, in spite of everything, continues to do effective work fighting discrimination.

Nevertheless, the Tories' pitch to the ethnic minorities is essentially right. It is an invitation to join a common front. What matters is not whether the Tory offer is sincere, nor even whether such values as acquisitiveness and family authority are compatible. It conveys a sense of political and social progress which must, in principle, be attractive to all those dissatisfied with their position, who want to move on and up.

Labour, by contrast, seems less sure-footed. The excesses of the left in the Eighties have left the party vulnerable to the impression that Labour associates more easily with the idea of ethnic minorities as victims, casualties, people stuck outside the mainstream, thereby placing the party outside the aspirations for improvement which are as natural to black and Asian people as to any other.

The extravagances of "multiculturalism", which too often became a set of excuses for failure to progress, were never as widespread as Labour's enemies made out. Tony Blair's rhetoric is inclusive and achievement-oriented. Labour ought to be able to present itself to, for example, those many African-Caribbean parents dismayed by their children's educational performance.

The coming election will not place colour, race, or even policy for the ethnic minorities as dominant issues. Is that a depressing sign for race relations? Not at all. The only really depressing sign is that large numbers of African-Caribbeans (in particular) have not registered to vote at all. Whatever else is going on, that must represent a feeling among many that they have no stake in mainstream society, either because they have

been penalised by educational underachievement, or by unjust exclusion from jobs. If the Tory appeal succeeds in convincing Asians and other ethnic minorities that they have a stake, or at least a right to bid for one, then that will be a step towards a more sophisticated understanding of politics and race in Britain.

A bargain? No, it's a banana

Something for nothing? Not quite. When Phil Calcott calculated that Tesco was paying him 8p for every 3lb of bananas he took away, he figured he "couldn't lose". He thought that after buying £942 worth of bananas he was £25.12 better off. But add on Mr Calcott's trips to the supermarket to pick up the bananas, the petrol used ferrying them to and fro and the hours spent standing in a Worcester street giving them away to bemused and reluctant shoppers. That's at least eight hours' work plus expenses, all for 25 quid. Great gesture, but we think Phil conned himself. There is, after all, no such thing as a free lunch.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarke's cuts are no way to help homeless

Sir: While I broadly agree with Andreas Whitam-Smith's comments on homelessness ("At last, homeless people find a place on the agenda", 13 Jan), he omits to mention one critical factor in shaping current housing provision: in last year's Budget, housing did find a place at the top of Kenneth Clarke's agenda - for cuts.

As a result, the National Housing Federation estimates that the Government will not even come close to building the modest 60,000 new social lettings planned for 1997 - there will be a shortfall of 26,000 affordable homes for rent.

This myopic move, so typical of a government which sees housing as a safe area in which to trim public spending, will have a doubly damaging effect. Not only will more vulnerable people be unable to secure a long-term tenancy, but these same people will create more of a drain on housing benefit - by close on £11m a year, according to DSS estimates.

So, predictably, this supposed "saving" adds up to more deprivation for the homeless and a waste of precious benefit resources.

DIANA MADDOCK MP
Liberal Democrat spokeswoman for Housing
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: "Every time we go and check we find they (the homeless) won't go in hostels" - Home Office minister David Maclean (report, 11 January).

The reason so many homeless reject hostels in preference to sleeping rough is because in ever more hostels today the homeless individual, as a condition of staying in the hostel, is forced to see a psychiatrist, who after a very brief interview diagnoses, as often as not, mental illness - a stigma for life - and prescribes tranquillisers of one sort or another, which have to be taken as a condition of accepting shelter, rehousing etc.

For many of the homeless it is an unacceptable deal.

ADAM BLUE
Carlisle, Cumbria
The writer was once homeless

Sir: Homeless people and beggars are not necessarily synonymous. ("Hey Jimmy: heard about the minister who thinks most beggars are Scots?", 11 January)

However, those homeless people using our Cold Weather Shelter last week were as follows: almost 80 per cent were male, with the same percentage having slept rough on the night before moving in. Almost one in five was aged over 50, with the predominant group in their mid-thirties. More than a quarter were "local". Scots represented only 6 per cent (the same percentage as Asian and Irish), less than both Black British and European.

These statistics are freely available from agencies working with homeless people. Indeed the Cold Weather Shelters are government-funded, so by implication it is the Government which assists us in keeping the details. It is a pity therefore that government ministers cannot quote facts.

CHERYL ST CLAIR
Director
Providence Row
London E1



All in a flap over wind theory

Sir: The letter by Andrew Cosgrave ("Wind turbines a threat to climate", 13 January) had me very worried until I realised that your staff must have made a mistake: it was meant to be published on 1 April. If I am not mistaken, please advise and I will stop my grandchildren from browning bits of paper with a magnifying glass: such interference may also affect the climate. Or would that produce global cooling, something which is desirable?

ANDREW SEAGER
Whitchurch, Oxfordshire

Sir: Andrew Cosgrave shows a common misunderstanding of chaos theory. Environmental change is caused by global effects, not local ones. Similarly, an avalanche is caused by the weight of snow. It has chaotic unpredictability because one does not know when or where the avalanche will happen. It could be set off by the flap of a butterfly's wing.

PETE TURLAND
Leicester

Anglo-Saxons beat the Welsh

Sir: Dr Andrew Breeze (report, 11 January) may or may not be right about Gwynllwyn ferch Gruffudd's authorship of *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi* (I have my doubts about his arguments to date), but either way she is still not "Britain's earliest known woman writer". That claim may belong to any of five Anglo-Saxon women who composed letters (then a literary genre in its own right) to St Boniface in the eighth century (*Elfrida*, *Egbert*, *Eangyth*, *Bugga* and *Lioba*), or to another nun, Berthgyth, who wrote letters and poetry to her distant brother, or to Huguette, abbess of Heidenheim in Germany, who wrote saints' lives in the 770s. Peter Dronke has studied the work of these women in *Women Writers of the Middle Ages*, and while their Latin is not as much fun to read as *Mabinogi*, it is well-crafted writing and worthy of notice.

Dr THOMAS OWEN CLANCY
University of Glasgow

HAL's birthday

Sir: I have just read the article "Arthur C Clarke's brainchild" (*New York*, 13 January). Sunday, 12 January is claimed to be the day that HAL, the intelligent computer, "became operational" in the film/book 2001, *A Space Odyssey*.

I have watched the film again. About 1 hour 40 minutes into the film, while his higher functions are being cut, HAL is heard to say: "Good afternoon, gentlemen. I am a HAL 9000 computer. I became operational at the HAL plant in Urbana, Illinois, on 12 January 1992" - not 1997.

The story underwent numerous rewrites, and the plot varies between the film and the book. Small wonder HAL became psychotic - the first uncertainty it had to deal with was its age.

COLVILLE CROOKS
Wokingham, Berkshire

Prepare for the homework snoops

Sir: Tony Blair says that education is his passion - and what are he and the Labour Party proposing? Nothing short of a "Ministry for Homework", with the power to impose a minimum of 30 minutes' homework per night on primary pupils and 90 minutes on those in secondary schools (report, 13 January).

How will this be enforced? Beware, parents, of the knock on the front door! It may be someone from the Ministry, checking up to make sure that your children are hard at it.

Is that really all that Labour is offering us? I ought to declare an interest as a teacher and one who has set plenty of homework - where appropriate - in his time, and has seen education used as a political football by successive governments, Tory and Labour, since I began my career in the late Sixties.

I really thought that after the experience of the past 17 years under the Tories, Labour might be more sympathetic to us teachers. But no! Yet more "reforms"! No wonder so many of us want to retire early, which the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, is about to deny us, even though we have more than paid for this opportunity through our pension contributions.

Where is New Labour's new money coming from? What about the dilapidated state of many schools? The £120m or so saved by abolishing the assisted places scheme is hardly going to stretch that far. Only the Liberal Democrats have been honest enough to say where the money

would come from, all £2bn of it, to put our education system right. Councillor JOHN MARRIOTT Lincoln
The writer is Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Slough & North Hykeham

Sir: More homework is not the answer. Education based on homework is discriminatory in the worst way - against those children who have no suitable surroundings at home to work in, or who do not have supportive parents.

Instead it should be abolished. The school day should run from 9am to 5.30pm, the last 90 minutes being a quiet time when the children do their "homework", overseen by teachers who get on with their marking. Both would be reduced, and parents could work normal hours instead of having to leave to collect their children in mid-afternoon.

Above all, children with difficult circumstances at home would get a fair chance to produce their best work.

DAVID HARRINGTON
London W3

Sir: Gillian Shephard's article ("Early teacher retirement is not a right", 9 January) is strong on finance and, unusually, short on standards and values.

No one of my generation went into teaching for the money. My take-home pay in 1974 was £90 a month. Teachers like teaching or

they wouldn't be there, so why are they getting out?

Perhaps we are tired of attempting to instill the values of honesty, application and co-operation when these have long been abandoned by society; tired of explaining to young minds that a £1m severance payment to the head of a privatised utility is the fair and just operation of market forces. But that alone would not make us desert our calling.

We would go on coping with the endless U-turns, long hours, attempts to achieve the impossible, had not been told so loudly and often by responsible politicians what a rotten lot we are. We can only do miracles if we feel valued.

She's a bright girl, that Gillian Shephard. Why doesn't she ask us why we want to go instead of just banging up the exits? Simple really... she knows the answers would be all wrong.

P COURT-HAMPTON
(Retired headteacher)
Curridge, Berkshire

Sir: So Gillian Shephard is not only going to stop teachers taking early retirement, she is going to punish the sick and reduce them to poverty. She writes: "Teachers are either too ill to teach or they are not." What nonsense! There are many who are not fit enough for full-time work but are able and willing to do some part-time teaching. But no. Teach for one hour and your meagre pension is stopped.

PETER SCOTT
Drayton, Somerset

Making an opera out of a 'crisis'

Sir: "What we remember is that when Prince William ended up in hospital, after cracking his skull with a golf club, Prince Charles went off to the opera," writes Jack O'Sullivan ("Dump Camilla and find us a new Queen", 11 January).

The Prince of Wales had guests looking forward to seeing him that night and, knowing that his son was in the hands of doctors and his wife was remaining at the hospital, he made the difficult and brave decision to fulfil the engagement. Prince William recovered and there was no national crisis.

LEIGH HATTS
London SE1

Sir: Who wants our future king to be holding babies? We have seen quite enough of the insincerity of politicians and Princess Diana kissing babies.

Mrs M HOOPER
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands

Children at risk

Sir: While it is true that practice in some local authorities can be very poor, the suggestion that the answer is for the NSPCC or Barnardos, valuable agencies as they are, to take responsibility for child protection ignores a number of realities (leading article, 10 January).

England and Wales has the lowest child mortality figures through violence in the developed world (Pritchard): effective child protection practice receives no publicity. The NSPCC does not carry out initial child protection investigations any more. Barnardos, as far as we know, has no experience in child protection work.

In our work as child care consultants we come across a variety of practice, both good and bad. The proper response to the bad does not lie in switching responsibility to unaccountable voluntary agencies, but in better training, management and support for social workers in child protection, and a much more rigorous, but less mechanistic, monitoring of standards.

MICHAEL GRIFFITH-JONES
GILL KING
London SE5

BSE culprits

Sir: At the same time that the Scottish butcher named in the *E coli* outbreak is prosecuted for "culpable and reckless negligence" (report, 11 January), the British government stands accused by a European Parliament draft report of conspiracy and negligence over the BSE issue ("Britain accused of blackmail on BSE", 10 January).

Since the number of New Variant CJD cases is likely far to exceed the *E coli* deaths, may we please know who is to be prosecuted?

M TREADWELL
Stockbridge
Hampshire

Queen of hearts meets the heart of darkness

So what is Diana, Princess of Wales, up to this week, picking her way delicately in her cool white blouse and beige chinos through the dusty red soil and stinking rubbish of a Luandan shanty town?

There is no doubting her sense of timing. A glance at yesterday's newspapers revealed how masterfully she had upstaged her husband's visit to Edinburgh, following reports that St James's Palace is engaged upon a strategy to repack the Prince to focus on his public achievements rather than his private life.

She pretty much eclipsed, too, the announcement that the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh are to share their golden wedding anniversary celebrations with 4,000 other couples who have survived 50 years of marriage. And of the Duchess of York's first day working in Los Angeles on a £500,000 TV commercial for a diet drink – an unprecedented royal product endorsement – there was little mention.

It was not just the scene, though the public is unused to seeing its favourite fashion icon in such distasteful surroundings. It was also the subject matter. How could her ex-husband's daring venture on to Scottish soil – the first royal north of the border since last week's boisterous TV poll in which Scots voted against the monarchy – compete with Lady Di's encounter with representatives of the 70,000 *mutilados*, the amputees and limbless casualties of the 12 million mines sown, indiscriminately and without markers, in the war-ravaged country which is still the second most heavily mined war zone in the world? (Cambodia is the worst, but her hosts, the Red Cross, thought that was too dangerous a place to take a VIP, even one now stripped of her HRH status).

How could the Prince's public pronouncements of support for the political establishment's

Paul Valley tells how small charities enlisted the help of the great and good to campaign for a world ban on land-mines, which kill or maim 2,000 a month

new line on rigorous homework yesterday compare with the drama of a statement about devices which "injure innocent victims"? Such men, women and children, Diana said, "may have played no part whatsoever in civil conflict ... International estimates suggest that up to 2,000 people every month are killed or maimed by mines around the world – that's one person every 20 minutes."

Clearly, if Diana has been thwarted in her professed ambition to be an "ambassador" of some sort she is determined to create a role of some seriousness for herself. But what is as interesting as Diana's motives for becoming involved is the process that has led to it. Five years ago the idea of banning land-mines was confined to a handful of individuals who had worked on clearing mines in Cambodia, and later Afghanistan, towards the end of the last decade. Today it has attracted the attention of the most high-profile member of the royal family. To anatomise the events that led from one to the other is to uncover a case-book example of the modern campaign phenomenon.

In the proxy conflicts of the Cold War during the Seventies and Eighties mines became what napalm had been for the Sixties. Originally designed for use against armies, they increasingly became weapons that took their chief toll upon civilians. At first this was by accident, but later by design, as mines were placed to create refugee flow or, as in Bosnia, as

instruments of "ethnic cleansing". They emptied territory and created terror. And when the war was over the mines remained. Today there are estimated to be 110 million unexploded mines, scattered over 64 countries, which maim more than 1,900 civilians a month. Between 5 and 10 million more are produced each year.

It was in October 1992 that a British organisation, the Mines Advisory Group, formed two years earlier to assist with detection, clearance and raising awareness among children in Afghanistan, Cambodia and, later, Kurdistan, came together with the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation to form the International Campaign to Ban Land-mines. It was a grandiose name for an organisation that was no more than a few passionate individuals with a major task ahead of them.

Early in 1993 they held a conference in London and invited representatives from 20 aid agencies including Oxfam, Unicef, Save the Children, Christian Aid and Cafod, the Catholic development agency. "It chimed in with what we were discovering from our work with refugees," says Cafod's campaigns co-ordinator, Linda Jones. "In Mozambique, Zimbabwe, everywhere we worked we were finding that what was keeping refugees in camps, instead of returning home, was fear of land-mines."

Several European Union governments were pressing for an international ban. But it

moves to obtain a global ban ran into difficulties at the UN General Assembly when Britain insisted that its high-technology "smart" mines with self-destruct mechanisms should not be classified with the cheap anti-personnel mines. Campaigners were unimpressed. Experts at the International Red Cross asserted that the mechanisms to make the mines "safe" fail in at least 10 per cent of cases – which is enough to make even a "smart" mine-field a continuing danger.

The British government insisted that the failure rate was much less. Independent details were hard to come by. The land-mine trade is cloaked in secrecy. Inquiries in Parliament met with curt refusals to disclose information on security grounds. But through the US Freedom of Information Act some intelligence emerged. Mine manufacturers include Daimler Benz in Germany, Fiat in Italy, Bofors in Sweden, Dynamit Nobel in Austria and, in Britain, the now privatised Royal Ordnance, Hunting Engineering Ltd and Thorn EMI Electronics. Such companies were switching to "smart" mines in the belief that they would remain legal after cheaper Third World "dumb" mines were outlawed.

The aid agencies were unconvinced. "But we were not at first persuaded that it was an issue on which we could mobilise the public," says Linda Jones. "Issues surrounding development and the arms industry are notoriously controversial. Then we ran a small stall at the Christian rock festival Greenbelt, at which we asked people to write to their MP about it. It's hard to persuade people to do that. So we were astonished when 600 sat down, there and then, and did it. We realised we had hit upon something which people felt was a black-and-white issue."

That year the British aid agencies set up the UK Working Group on Landmines and the ball began to roll. Cafod made it the subject of a Month of Action during Lent in 1994. Others outside the church became involved. The *British Medical Journal* pronounced them a particularly revolting weapon because they drive "dirt, bacteria, clothing and metal and plastic fragments into the tissue causing secondary infections". In Geneva Unicef, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross pleaded for a total ban as part of a review of the 1981 UN Inhumane Weapons Convention.



The Princess visits a young land-mine victim in Angola

John Stillwell/PA

In Britain the Government announced a partial export moratorium in response to the mounting international pressure but it refused to include "smart" mines or mines which are dropped from the air. Land-mines were "legitimate defensive weapons" if "responsibly" used, John Major stalled over ratifying the fairly feeble 1981 Inhumane Weapons protocol until the last moment, and then signed only to allow Britain to qualify for a place at the review conference.

In March 1995 Cafod launched a national campaign

designed to embarrass Britain into backing calls for a comprehensive ban on producing and exporting land-mines. It brought a young Cambodian who lost both his legs to a land-mine to Downing Street to hand in a poignant petition, bearing the signatures of 280,000 of his compatriots. The war has left a land-mine in Cambodia for every man, woman and child, it said. Cardinal Hume wrote to the Prime Minister on the subject. The campaign was also launched in London, Maidstone, York, Leeds, Sheffield, Cambridge,

Birmingham, Exeter, Bristol and Cardiff. Two months later the Pope called for a total ban on land-mines.

In September, on the eve of the intergovernmental review conference in Vienna for the Inhumane Weapons Convention, Cherie Booth, the Catholic wife of the Labour leader Tony Blair, released thousands of black balloons over the capital, a vigil was held in Westminster cathedral and, as the conference began, Cafod delivered 65,000 protest cards in the shape of butterfly bombs to the Ministry of Defence.

In parliament the Opposition took up the issue, and at the Labour Party conference the party's MPs and MEPs set up a mock battlefield on Brighton beach in a campaign to ban the production and export of anti-personnel land-mines. "Land-mines remain an effective defensive weapon," insisted David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister. "Our own Armed Forces have them and need them. If they had to do without land-mines, our forces would be weakened."

But that line of argument was to collapse, too. In March last year, not long after British MPs formed a cross-party group to campaign on mines, the US military announced it was to reconsider its opposition to a worldwide ban. The Gulf War commander, General Norman Schwarzkopf, along with 14 other retired generals, signed an open letter to President Clinton supporting a ban and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General John Shalikashvili, announced that he was "inclined to eliminate all anti-personnel mines".

One week later a report by the Red Cross, written by a retired British brigadier, declared that it had studied 126 recent wars and concluded that "in no case did mines play a major role in determining the outcome of a conflict". The report was backed by a dozen senior officers, including the Gulf War commander Sir Peter de la Billière and General Sir Hugh Beach, a former Master General of the Ordnance who was chief buyer of weapons for the Army. The military argument for land-mines was "very slender", Beach said.

In April campaigners organised mountains of odd shoes to be piled up in town squares throughout Britain as a reminder of the amputations land-mines caused. The annual assembly of Catholic bishops issued a condemnation. MPs began to sign, in large numbers, an early day motion. On the eve of a second review conference for the 1981 Convention a petition containing 180,000 signatures from British citizens was presented to the Prime Minister by General Sir Hugh Beach and Sir David Puttnam, producer of *The Killing Fields*.

Celebrities now became involved. At the Hampton Court Flower Show last July Sir Cliff Richard opened a Christian aid "land-mine garden". In October Sally Gunnell, the former Olympic 400m hurdles champion, joined the campaign on the eve of a conference in Ottawa called by the 50 governments who now do support a ban. And now the Diana, Princess of Wales, has been enlisted in the cause after a personal invitation from Lord Attenborough inviting her to the London international premiere of his latest film, *In Love and War*, in aid of the Red Cross anti-mine campaign. It seemed an inevitable conclusion. Whatever her motives in coming on board, one of the most adroit manipulators of the British media has joined the opposition. How much longer, you may wonder, can John Major now hold out?

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At last, the royals' verdict on democracy

We have had an endless debate among the voters on how well or badly the monarchy is doing, but what about a debate on how well our democracy is doing?

And who better to debate it than the very people who have no vote and no axe to grind – the Royal Family?

Yes, the time has surely come for the monarchy to discuss whether our democracy deserves to survive! And today I am bringing you exclusive extracts from an extraordinary TV debate – not yet broadcast – in which members of the Royal Family discuss openly whether democracy has a future. The chairman is the little-known member of the Dimpleby family, Edwin ...

Edwin: Hello. Welcome to a debate which has no precedent in TV history. A debate in which the Royal Family at last casts aside the cloak of impartiality in which it has been clothed for hundreds of years and ... Duke of Edinburgh: Oh, get on with it, you wittering windbag!

Edwin: Precisely. Let us go first to a lady who wishes only to be known by her code name, E.I.R. What do you think of democracy in Britain today, Ma'am?



Miles Kingston

Edwin: I think it would be a very good idea. Cheers and laughter. Edwin: Would you like to enlarge on that?

E.I.R.: Certainly. The idea of parliamentary democracy is meant to be that everyone in the country is represented in Parliament, that a member of Parliament is looking after his interests. In practice, members of Parliament are elected as obedient slaves of one or other of the main two parties. Nor does either party have as much power as they think, especially since they started handing the power over to unelected quangos. The tendency of the present government has been to create miniature monarchies all over Britain, monarchies which, I may say, have none of the experience nor the grandeur that we have. To say we have democracy in this country is to stretch the meaning of the word beyond the bounds of elasticity.

Duke: I think she's right. At the moment we have an unacceptable, unpopular, inefficient government doing a great many things against the popular will. If that is democracy, then I am a crypto-Stalinist. Edwin: But surely this is the government that the people voted for?

Duke: More fool them. Edwin: But isn't democracy all about letting the people choose their own representatives?

Duke: Not at all. Democracy is about giving the people two unacceptable and unlikely alternatives and asking them to choose: the

least bad. People always criticise the monarchy for the fact that the country has no choice in the monarch, but the choice of Prime Minister is very nearly as limited. At the next election it will be either Blair or Major. Enough said.

Edwin: But it will be the will of the people ... Duke: Blarney. Most of the people read *The Sun*, get excited about football and think McDonald's hamburgers are great. Do you think their ideas on politics are any more advanced? Edwin: Isn't that a bit elitist? Duke: No. I think it's very elitist. A bit more elitism wouldn't do any harm. Charles: I think what my father is trying to say ... Duke: Don't tell me what I'm trying to say!

Edwin: Let's hear from Prince Charles ... Charles: Thank you. Duke: And go easy on the Laurens van der Post quotes. Edwin: No, please let him speak. Charles: Thank you. Well, all I want to say is that if people think the monarchy is slipping, they should take a look at themselves first. It is

An intriguing debate, I think you'll agree. More of it some other time, perhaps.

Local radio? Why not news from your own street?

The last London radio licence will be awarded tomorrow by the Radio Authority. The capital is not exactly holding its breath with excitement we have 14 London-wide stations already. What is the point? But here they are missing a remarkable opportunity for the renaissance of democracy in a great city.

The winner is likely to be yet another music station, and whatever it promises, it will probably end up playing middle-of-the-road something or other. You might think there was plenty of room for 15 radio stations for different niches and interests. But niche radio in the capital has fallen on its face after the disastrous flop of Vivaldi, the feminist chic station; and Premier, the draft Christian station, sank to only 1 per cent audience share. Money is made in the mainstream.

So the Radio Authority is expected to be unadventurous with this last licence (which costs only some £70,000 - this is not an auction). Not much hope for the French language station for francophones and francophiles - such a rare breed, they might be cheaper to contact by phone. Nor for two children's stations, since the last lot of children to gather round the bakelite set for Uncle Mac and Children's Hour ("Are you sitting comfortably?") are now the target audience for another bidder, Saga, for the oldies. Nor for the gay and lesbian bidder, the idea that sexual orientation dictates musical taste seems a bit insultingly deterministic.

So what does London really need? What could the Radio Authority do? It could split the licence into at least 12 small stations and offer them to local community groups. Audiences might be small, but at least London would get a service it desperately needs. The nation grumbles resentfully about its capital: we who live in London have it all. We suck investment, prestige projects and national attention away from the poor, benighted provinces. The irony is that London is worse governed and worse informed about its governance than any other part of the land. It has virtually no good local newspapers: the capital-wide *Evening Standard* is in effect a national. Where I live in Lambeth, one so-called local paper covers six colossal boroughs, each with an economy the size of a Third World nation, so it cannot report much on each council's committees and planning decisions.

London local government gets little scrutiny, until some scandal is big enough to hit the national. In a downward spiral, fewer able people participate, fewer citizens scrutinise. Local government is in decline partly because the local press has often given up reporting it properly. The less it is reported, the less interested people become. Though there remain good papers in some cities, most of London is poorly served. Covering council meetings and committees is expensive: it requires hours of intelligent reporter time, digging, under-



Polly Toynbee
Politicians rack their brains about how to create a sense of community in big cities. Radio could give us a stronger sense of belonging

standing and writing relatively unsensational stories. But covering crime is dirt cheap, with the police and the courts spoon-feeding shock-horror stories that make quick, easy from-page splashes.

There is nothing "London" about these radio licence bids because there is no "London" identity. I, living in Lambeth, have as much or as little interest in what happens in Harrow-on-the-Hill as I have in events in Dumfries. The BBC's dire *South-East News* on television displays the problem at its most extreme. There is nothing more boring than other people's local news from other parts of the region - a fire in Oxford or a crime in Kent. What people want is very local news, not regional news. If it happens in your high street, to people you know, at a school your children once attended, or a shop you use, then almost any trivial event takes on a special interest. If you hear your own councillor from your own ward, you may sit up and listen - and even remember their name.

These days policy-makers rack their brains about how to create a sense of community in sprawling urban cityscapes. Most of us choose to live in cities in order to escape being trapped in some tiny, claustrophobic community. We prefer to build our own community around us from the rich choice of friends available in a metropolis - and they are rarely our physical neighbours. And yet we still also yearn for some kind of attachment to place, especially those who have children in a local school, and retired people who spend more time within the purview of their district. Neighbourhood is unlikely to define and confine most city-dwellers and yet most would like a stronger sense of belonging. Community radio is never going to solve all the problems of urban alienation, but it could make an important contribution. Even if it never got big ratings, it would provide a focal point for local activists and scrutiny for local government.

The Radio Authority has one last chance to make it happen. Four final smaller licences, dividing the city up into four quarters, are to be handed out shortly. A quarter of London is almost as meaningless an entity as the whole - Wandsworth cares not a fig what goes on in Bexley - so, instead, the authority should divide these last bits into the smallest fragments their engineers can devise and advertise them for local groups. To be sure, the local groups would have to raise the money: the National Lottery may help, since the Government refused to set up a community radio fund in the Broadcasting Bill last year. But with some local advertising revenue as well, they could thrive.

And if the Radio Authority will not, then why doesn't the BBC abandon its pointless, low-rating Greater London Radio station, divide up and hand out that frequency (and the money spent on it) to a myriad local London communities?

Honest John versus Tricky Tony...



So it is to be - surprise, surprise - a "presidential election". John Major is his party's greatest asset and will be giving presidential press conferences, reveals Conservative Central Office. Half a mile away, in Labour's Millbank Tower, it is axiomatic that new Labour and Tony Blair are more or less the same thing. Thus, for the next few months, numerous highly-paid and creative people will be trying to persuade the electorate that politics can be resolved into a contest between two opposite personalities. A primeval story of light and dark, protector and destroyer, will be spun. Blair or Major - the nation decides.

This is both crass and constitutionally impertinent. Yet leadership matters, hugely, and it is worth examining the psychopolitics that is breaking around us. It need not take long. There are only two basic statements being made; and they are both very basic indeed.

John Major is honest: Tony Blair is slippery.

This is perhaps the fundamental "presidential" Conservative message. The choice of Major's eyes in recent Tory posters, with slogans beginning "As promised..." was an example of the strategists' Honest John - quiet, gutsy, straight. It plays to Major's Middle-English gawkins. You may smile at him, is the implication; but when you do, you are smiling

That's about the level we can expect in this campaign. Both men deserve better, says Andrew Marr

partly at yourself, at England's (never Britain's) faults and virtues made flesh.

Blair, meanwhile, is to be regarded as Tricky Tony, a man not quite ringing true. This connects the unknown quantity that new Labour still is, to the perception among some voters that Blair is a man who smiles too much, who is trying too hard to please and who cannot therefore be trusted.

These are potent and important messages, however crude. And yet there is no evidence to back up the distinction at all. Major has a record of saying different things to different people on Europe - understandable, given the strains in the party, but also wily behaviour, even sinuous. His rhetoric about taxes in the 1992 election was utterly confounded by his actions after it. He is a highly conscious and artful phrasemonger - and Honest John is quite prepared to fight dirty. On the other hand he can be just as smoothly charming as the Labour leader; Major doing some serious schmoozing has to be seen to be believed.

Tony Blair, meanwhile, has been unusually frank for a leading politician. There are very important gaps to be filled in, notably on tax and voting reform. But Blair has made a fetish of promising only a mod-

est agenda. In recent years, he hasn't changed his mind on anything important. Given his determination to promise nothing he cannot deliver, it is one of the minor mysteries of politics that this basically straightforward, open man is seen by some as shifty and untrustworthy - even "smarmy".

Partly, it is the venom of those who have been ruthlessly excluded by the modernisers. Leo Abse both an old socialist and an old Freudian, has been the harshest single critic of Blair's smiling image, variously describing the Labour leader as possessing "an over-ready, winsome boy smile", as being "androgynous" and practising "the politics of perversion".

Worse still, as Abse shrewdly points out, he likes rock music. This is silly, savage stuff which tells us more about Abse than Blair. But it is a good example of the psychological warfare that presidential-style politics can degenerate into. It is not yet a capital crime to grin; and to draw a contrast between the Prime Minister and the Labour leader on the basis of honesty versus smiling insincerity is, so far as I can see, mere hooey.

What, though, of Labour's counter-charge? Blair is tough, and a winner: Major is weak and a loser. This is, in essence, the

Blairite answer to the Tory character-assassins and is about as accurate. It is certainly true that Blair is tough, and has reformed his party more radically than many others would have dared to do. But Major is a hard case too. He has been in power for six years, managing a fissionous and disloyal party; his personal performance in 1992 had a lot to do with the Tories' election victory then. He is, in short, a strange sort of loser.

Is Major weak in a way that Blair isn't? He certainly found press attacks horribly hurtful but to be lampooned day after day and remain cheerful - as he now can - is not something the average citizen could manage. Major possesses awesome self-control but is a very emotional man who has always been touchy about "the mockers" and genuinely thinks himself badly underrated. Yet the years have covered him with thick, barely penetrable emotional scar tissue and fed his basic, burning self-belief.

There is another kind of weakness. Early on in his premiership, it is true that Major gave the Tory factions on Europe the clear and damaging message that he could be successfully bullied. This did more than anything else to feed the anti-EU revolt which has dom-

inated his premiership and is the main evidence for the weakness that Blair identifies as Major's failing.

Rightly, but would Tony Blair be very different? He has Major's example to learn from. In opposition, Blair has led ruthlessly and at times almost recklessly from the front. He brims with optimism and energy. But office and opposition are different - a Labour government will also have its factions and its dissident ministers and Blair's ability to achieve compromise may yet be as much in demand as Major's. Blair and Major are separated, of course, by a lot - by political agendas, age and experience. But they are much more alike as political personalities than either would willingly admit. Knowing both of them at least a little, I conclude that no simple distinction between the trustworthy one and the slippery one, or the tough one and the weak one, is anything more than tawdry propaganda - the soap opera of the election boardings.

In different ways, the two big parties are both lucky in their leaders. We should judge Blair and Major on their policies, their promises and, insofar as we can, their records. But when Conservative Central Office or the Labour spin-doctors try to sell us the 1997 election as a Manichean contest between two wildly different personalities we should reject it, with contempt, as a fraud.

Greeks, stop bearing grudges

An arms race with Turkey is no way forward for Greece, argues George Kassimeris

There is loud talk of the "Turkish threat" in Greece today and a great deal of it. Ever since the quarrel last year with Turkey over the deserted Aegean islets of Imia, which brought the two NATO allies very close to war for the first time in a decade, Greece's psychological temperature and blood-pressure have been running high. Leading articles and media interviews and discussions have endlessly circled the same question: "How are we to stop those vicious, expansionist Turks from washing their boots in the warm waters of our Aegean islets?" This, of course, is not a new question. And today's tensions between Turkey and Greece over missiles in Cyprus are just the latest episode.

All nations are afflicted with a deep sense of their past; the Greeks, however, are prisoners to theirs. Chained to a history that refuses to go away, they have never come to terms with their defeats and occupation under the Ottoman Turks. The mere fact that many ordinary Greek people - 544 years on - are still fantasising about the recapture of Constantinople and the re-founding of the Byzantine Empire in Asia Minor clearly shows the depth of our wounded sense of nationhood.

It is scarcely a surprise, then, that the 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus made sure that the numerous resentments, prejudices and traumas of the past reasserted themselves. The attack on Cyprus, while it precipitated the collapse of the colonels' fascist regime, also exposed Greece's manifest incompetence to defend its national territory and thus brought back bitter memories of a nation in deep retreat. Worse still, the pathetic attempts by NATO and the UN to break the deadlock merely reinforced Greece's outrage towards her Western partners and deepened her insecurity in the region. This partly explains why Greeks have come to see themselves as a brotherless nation more often betrayed than supported by their allies.

In the early years of *metapolitefsi* (the 1974 transition to democracy), the Greeks were obsessed by restoring their national credibility and independence of action. Predictably, the process of democratic consolidation was played out against a background of continuing tension with Turkey and the Atlantic Alliance. The Karamanlis government's tactical move to take Greece out of the military wing of NATO's command structure is a strong case in point. At the same time,



The 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The Greek psyche has not yet recovered

Konstantinos Karamanlis, the first post-junta premier, waged a campaign pushing for Greek entry into the European Community. This was seen as a political umbrella that could safeguard the country's young democratic institutions from internal enemies and its territorial integrity from external threats. At a deeper level, however, Karamanlis had hoped that full economic and political interaction with the other member states would eventually cure his countrymen of their traditional assumption that Greece is the centre of the world and, therefore, a top priority on every major country's foreign policy agenda.

Then, in 1981, came Andreas Papandreu, the country's first socialist prime minister, who took anti-Westernism to xenophobic extremes. Declaring that "Greece belongs to the Greeks", Papandreu turned anti-Westernism into a national mantra, threatening several times to pull Greece out of every single organisation to which she belonged. Although none of these threats ever materialised, Papandreu's rhetorical violence and anti-American, anti-EC, anti-NATO, anti-Turkish polemics fulfilled the psychological need for recognition and offered security, national identity and pride to a confused and anxious people, increasingly unsure of their place in the world. But while the Greeks tried to overcome their

history through demagogic fireworks and vendetta politics, Greece drifted into economic and social depression. The search for national grandeur brought instead economic stagnation, urban deterioration, terrorism and corruption at every level.

The country entered the 1990s as the European Union's most intractable problem. Worse still, the collapse of the satellite Communist regimes of Eastern Europe and the subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union weakened Greece's geostrategic significance for the West, thus undermining its eligibility for the special treatment and financial support it enjoyed when the country was a front-line state in the Cold War.

The Yugoslav crisis arrived like a *deus ex machina*: a unique opportunity for Greece to cut a figure on the post-Cold War international stage. The most stable, democratic and ethnically homogeneous Balkan state, a member of both the EU and NATO, Greece was ideally placed to act as a force of stability in the region and thus become its economic and political leader. Instead, Greece not only managed to pick fights with all its Balkan neighbours, but its paranoid fears over the alleged long-term expansionist ambitions of small and weak Macedonia, coupled with diplomatic ineptitude, seriously threatened, for a

time, the stability of south-eastern Europe as a whole.

The damage done is there for all to see. The us-against-the-rest-of-the-world attitude has led to Greece being treated more often as a leper than as a friend. And for years now, domestically, it has been less important to get the deficit under control, fill the holes in the budget, tackle high unemployment, resist tax evasion, defeat corruption, and increase the status and credibility of our country than it has been to postpone the moment when each of these might be confronted.

The election of Costas Simitis as Prime Minister last September was a considerable step forward. Simitis is a man of great intelligence, energy and political depth, not a man to confuse feeling with doing. Yet his government's intention of spending, over the next five years, the astronomical sum of approximately £8bn (£11bn in total by the year 2007) on new weapons purchased in response to what it sees as a growing Turkish military threat in the Aegean, gives a strong indication that the larger political picture has remained unchanged. The chronic failure of Greece's political class to overcome its parochialism and narrow obsession with external "enemies" continues to block the route forward.

One cannot choose one's neighbours. Rightly or wrongly, Turkey is, and always will be, our neighbour. Running a full-scale arms race with Turkey in the name of national security and patriotism means running away from European economic and monetary union for at least a decade. There is absolutely nothing patriotic about a country permanently locked in a spiral of stagnation, debt and low growth or in further undermining our already depressed social and cultural institutions, our schools and hospitals.

Today the premier challenge facing Greece, the poorest member of the EU with the worst record on inflation and a colossal national debt, is not to redress the military balance with a country that is five times larger in size and population and with armed forces about four times more numerous than our own. The challenge is to revitalise its economy, modernise its anachronistic institutions, revive its discredited political culture and reach a level where it can start putting something back into a Europe that has given her so much and for so long. A modern, economically viable, forward-looking, European Greece has nothing to fear. Not from Turkey or anybody else.

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obituaries / gazette

Lord Borthwick

Among the businessmen and parliamentary regulars of the Monday Edinburgh-to-London British Airways shuttle there develops a certain camaraderie. In the mid-1980s there was added to our number an octogenarian but agile figure wearing a Gunners' tie, a wax-moustached Colonel Blimp, albeit always with an unlikely rucksack over his shoulder. This was the sheep farmer John Henry Stuart Borthwick of that ilk, 23rd Lord Borthwick, Baron of Heriotmuir, 17th Laird of Crookston, Hereditary Royal Falconer of Scotland, and for three years, 1970-72, the highly regarded president of the West Lothian and Midlothian area of the National Farmers' Union, on his way to and fro to serve his country - and the Conservative Party - in the House of Lords.

He had been born in Borthwick Castle - a member of a secondary line of the family - where the Borthwick title could be traced back to 1410; here



Borthwick: shrewd

Mary, Queen of Scotland and her husband the Earl of Bothwell had sought sanctuary from the Scottish nobles. Borthwick was born in what purported to be the room of Mary Queen of Scots and was christened Stuart after the Royal House.

In 1963, when I was a newly elected MP and he was a promi-

nent member of the local NFU, I told him cheerily that I had gone to campaign against his friend Sir Alec Douglas-Home in the Perth and Kinross by-election. Half jokingly but, I sensed, wholly in earnest, he said: "Tell that fella Wilson that Alec may be the 14th Earl of Home, but I am really entitled to be the 23rd Lord Borthwick!" It was to be another quarter of a century before, in 1986, he finally established his claim, thanks to the genealogist Hugh Peskett (once described as "the Sherlock Holmes of the family tree"), who discovered key documents in a cardboard box beneath the billiard table at Crookston House, on the Borthwick estate. In 1986 the Lord Lyon, Scotland's regulator of titles and honours, ruled that John Borthwick had proved his right as "heir male of the body of William, first Lord Borthwick, to the armorial rights and peerage title".

The title was now live again for the first time since 1910,

completing a link with Borthwicks who escorted St Margaret of Hungary to Edinburgh for her marriage to Malcolm Canmore in 1069 and to the ownership of Borthwick Castle. I had the impression that deep down Borthwick felt the Earl Home, let alone the House of Windsor, was somewhat *nouveau* compared to his lineage.

He made his maiden speech in the House of Lords on 5 November 1987 during the Farm and Rural Development Bill, offering a very constructive view of his experience as a long-serving member of the Scottish Livestock Export Group and the Wool Marketing Board (1966-87), about which he continued to make sensible contributions into his late eighties.

Borthwick was a modest man about his distinguished war record, in which he saw action from Normandy to the Rhine crossing with the Royal Artillery. For 40 years he was active on behalf of the Normandy

Veterans' Association, of which he was the patron for Scotland.

After hostilities ended he was Lieutenant-Colonel GS01 with the control commission and was in charge of the district of Nordrhein Westphalen. "History has it," he said,

that humbling British brigadiers, like John Barracough, who was the commander of the military government of Nordrhein province, and other colonels like myself, were silly blithering idiots who sacked the Burgermeister of Cologne for insubordination and incompetence. And that, had we not done so, Konrad Adenauer would not have gone into Federal politics and become Chancellor of Germany.

I was one of those who helped John Barracough draft the famous letter of 6 October 1945 to Herr Oberburgermeister Dr H.C.K. Adenauer, Allianz Buildings, Cologne.

The 12 points in the letter were:

1. I am not satisfied with the progress which has been made in Cologne in connection with the repair of buildings and the clearing of the streets and the general task of preparing for the coming winter.

2. About two months ago I personally visited you of your responsibilities in connection with this work. You have not ful-

filled these responsibilities to my satisfaction. I am fully aware of the difficulties with which you have had to contend. I know that many of your colleagues have been removed for political reasons, I know the difficulties in connection with the labour situation in Cologne. I am fully alive to the position with regard to communication, shortage of coal, shortage of transport et cetera et cetera.

3. I am however convinced that, with proper supervision and energy on your part, more could have been done to deal with these problems than has, in fact, been done.

4. In my opinion you have failed in your duty to the people of Cologne.

5. You are therefore dismissed today from your appointment as Oberburgermeister of Cologne.

6. You will leave Cologne as soon as possible, and in any case not later than 14 October.

7. You will immediately hand over the duties of Oberburgermeister of Cologne to the Burgermeister of Cologne, Herr Smith.

8. Herr Smith will carry out the duties of Oberburgermeister of Cologne as a temporary measure pending the appointment of an Oberburgermeister.

9. After you have handed over to Herr Smith you will take no further part in the administration or public life of Cologne or any other part of the Nordrhein province.

10. You will not indulge either directly or indirectly in any political activity whatever.

11. If you fail in any respect to observe the instructions contained in this letter, you will be brought to trial by the military court.

12. You will acknowledge receipt of this letter hereon.

Signed: Barracough, Brigadier Commanding the Military Government of Nordrhein Province.

Adenauer said in his memoirs:

I was asked to sign the original of this letter to confirm receipt. Asked whether I had any remarks to make, I said "No" and left the room.

The decisive passage of this letter of dismissal was point 10, "You will not indulge either directly or indirectly in any political activity whatever." Many years later when Adenauer was Federal Chancellor he met John Barracough at a state banquet.

Barracough asked me, "What did you really think when you got your letter of dismissal?" I replied, "I have a file 'Dismissal by the Nazis' at home. I will now start a file 'Dismissal by the Liberators'."

Adenauer's memoirs tend to bear out what Borthwick told me with charming self-deprecation, adding that he did not pretend, nor did his friend John Barracough, to be very bright. "But, that is only one side of the story. The truth is that the sly, cunning fox was so damned difficult that he pushed us into writing that letter. You see,

Adenauer had a scheme all along. He positively wanted us to sack him so he could say, 'I'm no stooge of the conquerors of Germany - the British have dismissed me as your Burgermeister for standing up for the folk of Cologne. I am the man to lead the Christian Democrats.'"

Borthwick was convinced that Adenauer knew exactly what he was doing all along. Borthwick was a shrewd old boy and convinced me that in this matter he was probably right. And few letters can have had such a consequential effect on European history in the 20th century.

Tam Dalyell

John Henry Stuart Borthwick, farmer and soldier; born Borthwick, Midlothian 13 September 1905; succeeded 1937 as 23rd Lord Borthwick (claim to Lordship admitted by Lord Lyon 1986); married 1938 Margaret Cornock (died 1976; two sons); died Borthwick 30 December 1996.

Sean Rice

Sean Rice was a highly accomplished Liverpool sculptor whose imaginative interpretation of traditional religious or mythic themes was highlighted by the recent installation at Liverpool's Roman Catholic Cathedral of Rice's 14 sculptures for the Stations of the Cross. Commissioned by Bishop Derek Worlock, this last work has a similar poignancy to Elisabeth Frink's figure of Christ, installed shortly before her death above the entrance to the Anglican Cathedral at the opposite end of Hope Street.

Unlike Arthur Dooley, another renowned Merseyside sculptor who produced sculpture for churches, Rice was a highly trained artisan from an academic background. That background gave him an astonishing technical virtuosity; the individuality of his style is based on a superb mastery of casting, welding and forging techniques. He often used multivalent metals in the same piece, fabricating them in a way that produced extraordinary figurative detail, replacing the hard and seemingly intractable nature of metal with a feeling of effortless malleability of materials.

Rice was born in London in 1931. He spent the war years in Brighton, where he later began art studies under the sculptor James Woodford RA. Like so many sculptors, Rice started off as a painter but Woodford - creator of the Robin Hood monument in Nottingham - encouraged his growing interest in mythic themes and symbolic forms.

This direction was further encouraged by the sculptor Maurice Lambert, who taught Rice

between 1951 and 1953 at the Royal Academy Schools in London. Lambert's penchant for animals, birds and mythic figures undoubtedly influenced Rice's choice of similar subject matter. Their techniques may have differed but Lambert's celebrated Pegasus - which Rice encountered at the 1951 Festival of Britain - encouraged the baroque fantasy and overflowing symbolic detail that would also come to characterise Rice's mature work. His 17th fountain (1972) for the Atlantic Tower Hotel near Liverpool's Albert Dock, for example - a totemic aviary of ascending birds - closely recalls Lambert's *Aeneas and the Birds*. Rice's interest in the relationship of the animal and human worlds is witnessed in another large commission, *Noah and the Four Winds*, installed at Chester Zoo in 1977.

Another major influence on Rice's development was Italy, which he discovered on a motorcycle soon after graduating from the Academy Schools. In awe of classical architecture and Italian mannerist sculpture, he subsequently visited Italy annually, enjoying the landscape as much as the churches, and producing sensitive watercolours. He also met leading Italian artists like the realist painter Renato Guttuso and the Vatican sculptor Manzù, both of whom - along with Picasso - tempered the visionary quality of Rice's work by introducing a more earthy note.

This other side of Rice's sensibility caused him to render harrowing or menacing images of motorcycle riders - the elaborate welded structures of scraps and metal offcuts clearly identifying with the engineering of the real thing - or of paramilitary riot police, complete with helmets, shields and batons. An interest in the theme of civil disturbance introduced a secular as well as local note, since the 1981 Toxteth riots had occurred near Rice's home in the north Liverpool suburb of Walton.

It was in the unlikely context of his terraced house in the shadow of Goodison Park football ground that Rice installed a bronze foundry and metal workshop, enabling him to undertake large-scale commissions. After a distinguished teaching career in the sculpture department of Liverpool College of Art, Rice decided in 1980 to devote all his energies to making sculpture, a brave move made possible by the commercial success he achieved through regular exhibitions at the Alvin Gallery, London.

Rice's sculptures of Old Testament or mythic figures were larger than life in more ways than one. He had a keen, even humorous, poetic sense as well as an unrivalled feeling for the expressive potential of metals. One associates welded sculpture with the abstract structures and "sculpture" of Anthony Caro - a student with Rice at the Royal Academy - but in Sean Rice's capable hands such a medium was put to more symbolic ends.

Peter Davies

Brian Sean Rice, sculptor; born Heston, Middlesex 5 November 1931; Senior Lecturer, Liverpool College of Art 1967-80; married (two sons, one daughter); died Liverpool 4 January 1997.



Symbolic: Shimei, forged and welded plate bronze by Rice, 1978

Photograph: Reg Cox

Rudolf Nassauer



Nassauer: dissecting his roots

Rudolf Nassauer was an undervalued writer whose most important work, *The Hooligan*, the first in-depth analysis of Nazi psychology, became a Sixties cult book.

He was born in Frankfurt in 1924 into a prosperous family of Jewish wine merchants. After Kristallnacht, on 9-10 November 1938, his father and sister fled to London, leaving the young Rudi and his mother to settle their affairs. Frau Nassauer was unacquainted with business, and the adolescent Rudi had to deal with the Nazis on the family's behalf.

Shortly afterwards, he and his mother also came to England.

Rudi had to learn English in order to complete his education, which he did at St Paul's School. While it was always his ambition to become a writer, he entered the family wine business, Nassauer Bros, which, after the war, specialised in German wines.

In 1947 he married Bernice Rubens. Together they cultivated the friendship of writers and intellectuals, many of them their neighbours in Hampstead. Among these were E.L. Rieu, Peter Vansittart and Angus Wilson. During this period, while continuing to work as a wine merchant, Nassauer wrote in his spare time. In the late 1950s, the manuscript of his first novel, *The*

Hooligan, on which he had worked for 10 years, was submitted to publishers. After numerous rejections, it was shown to me. I accepted it at once and it was published in 1960.

It was launched to a fanfare of praise: Iris Murdoch called it "a most distinguished and important book". Elias Canetti found in it "the first presentation of a Nazi that belongs to literature... every page is as profound as it is exciting". *The Hooligan* quickly went to a second edition and was later translated into German and Italian. It was followed by *The Cuckoo* in 1962, a painful dissection of a failing marital relationship.

Had his German education not been interrupted, Nassauer might well have become a major European writer. As it was, forced to adjust to writing English, he never really fulfilled his promise. Apart from *The Hooligan*, his most significant work was his last, *Kramer's Goats* (1986), in which he returned to a dissection of his European roots.

After Bernice's debut as a writer in 1960, and her winning the Booker Prize with *The Electric Member* (1969), some rivalry occurred between herself and Rudi, and they eventually divorced, although they remained "best friends". After the death of his father

in the 1960s, Nassauer continued to run the family wine business until it collapsed some years later. Subsequently he became a director of the wine merchants Ehrmann's, where he worked until retiring in 1991. He was also very interested in modern art, and acted as patron to a number of young artists, becoming a close friend of the painter Paula Rego.

Peter Owen

Rudolf Nassauer, writer and wine merchant; born Frankfurt 3 November 1924; married 1947 Bernice Rubens (one son, two daughters; marriage dissolved); died London 5 December 1996.

George Lazarus

George Lazarus was a passionate collector in three fields: Dutch painting, imperial jade and, principally, modern rare books and manuscripts. He assembled the finest collection of the works of D.H. Lawrence in private hands, a collection bequeathed to Nottingham University where Lawrence had become, in his own words, "cash-chemically BSc" (the reference being to Boot's, cash-chemists, whose founder, Jesse Boot, was an early benefactor of the university).

Educated at Marlborough and Caius College, Cambridge, where he read Modern Languages, Lazarus came down in 1925 to join the family business, Lazarus Brothers, jobbers on the London Stock Exchange, leading the market in gold mining shares. He was to go on to become senior partner.

He had begun collecting books as an undergraduate and now he set about building a collection based on serious fiction of the 20th century. There were two basic criteria: authors had to have produced work which gave him personal satisfaction and a conviction that it was of permanent value. Fashion and the opinion of professional critics were totally disregarded.

In the earliest days Lazarus sought H.G. Wells's first editions as well as those of Galsworthy. Lawrence was soon added. By the mid-1950s some 30 novelists were represented, including E.M. Forster, Aldous Huxley and Somerset Maugham. Women writers included Elizabeth Bowen, Constance Holme, Mary Webb, Virginia Woolf, Irish, Sean O'Casey, Frank O'Connor, Sean O'Faolain, Americans, William Faulkner and John Steinbeck. Lazarus bought the works of almost all these before their reputations were firmly established.

In each case he sought fine copies of the first editions of every work in the author's canon and then to reinforce the sets of printed work with letters and manuscripts. In the fashion of his day he was disdainful of dust-jackets, which collectors now regard as *de rigueur*.

His work in the City leaving him little time to indulge his collecting hobbies, he chose to buy through one carefully selected specialist dealer in each field. He would ask for advice. There would be discussion. But the eventual decision would always be George Lazarus's own. The mere availability of funds never meant that items were bought regardless of price. Pressures of space brought

about the continuing refinement of the library, author collections being sold to leave room for concentration of his chief aim, the perfecting of his D.H. Lawrence collection. The high spot of this probably remains the manuscript of Lawrence's first novel, *The White Peacock*.

Lazarus was one of the first private collectors to buy the manuscripts of contemporary writers. He bought stories, he bought poems, he seized every opportunity of buying letters with significant texts, amassing more than 150 Lawrence pieces addressed to 27 different correspondents.

A handsome man, immaculately turned out, George Lazarus was blessed with an agile mind and appeared to make decisions easily. During the Sec-



Lazarus: first editions

ond World War the Royal Air Force made use of these qualities, employing him first in Great Britain and then for three years in the Middle East, plotting and directing the movements of fighter squadrons. He rose to the rank of squadron leader.

He saw all problems in terms of black and white; for him there were no greys. A generous and loyal friend, he never suffered fools gladly; in fact he scarcely suffered them at all.

In later years his failing eyesight made it difficult to read, but he was devoted to his beautiful garden in Buckinghamshire and retained a lively interest in cricket and in sport generally. His views on the performance of the English cricket team in Zimbabwe at the end of last year are best left unrecorded.

Anthony Rota

George Louis Lazarus, stockbroker and collector; born London 15 March 1904; twice married (one son, one stepdaughter, and one son deceased); died Henley-on-Thames 11 January 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

FALK: Stephen John ("Toby"), 54 years, on 10 January. Loved husband of Gail, father of Ian and Jonathan, son of Katharine and John. Funeral at 2pm on 24 January at St Mary's Church, Bletchingley, Surrey. Family flowers only but donations please to the much-appreciated Marie Curie Harrogate Hospice, Catherine CR3 6YU. Memorial service in London to be announced later.

MAGILL: (Charles Philip) "Peter", died peacefully on Friday 10 January 1997, aged 86 years. Professor of German, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth 1952-71. Funeral service (family only) at Crydion Crematorium on Monday 20 January at 12.15pm. Donations in lieu of flowers for Imperial Cancer Research Fund, to PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX. A memorial service will be held later in Aberystwyth.

WARMAN: Charlotte, loving wife of the late Sam Warman CBE and mother of Abby, Zoe and Jessica, died on 13 January after a short illness at University College Hospital, London. Family funeral only. No flowers, donations to the Shakespeare Globe Trust, Bear Gardens, London SE1 9ED.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2016.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. A. S. Lamey and Miss L. Griffin. The engagement is announced between James Aeneas Sebastian, son of Mr Michael Clayton and Mrs Stephen Barlow, both of London, and Louise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Griffin, of Wootton, Isle of Wight.

Birthdays

Frances Michael of Kent, 52; Mrs Margaret Beckett MP, 54; Mr Chuck Berry, singer, 71; Mr Frank Bough, television presenter, 64; Mr Lloyd Bridges, actor, 84; Sir Neil Cossons, director of the Science Museum, 58; Lord Dacre of Glanton, historian and former Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, 83; Miss Jane Drabble, Director of Education, BBC, 50; Dame Mary Hogg QC, High Court judge, 50; Sir John Junor, former Editor of the *Sunday Express*, 78; Mr Melvin J. Lasky, former editor and publisher of *Encounter*, 77; Professor Peter Maitlis, Professor of Chemistry, Sheffield University, 64; Sir Thomas Morison, High Court judge, 58; Miss Margaret O'Brien, actress, 60; Miss

Maria Schell, actress, 71; Lord Simon of Glaisdale, former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 86; Sir John Smith QC, Emeritus Professor of Law, Nottingham University, 75; Mr Peter Thornton, actor and comedian, 76; Sir John Wordie, barrister, 75.

Anniversaries

Births: Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin), baptised 1622; Mazon de la Roche, writer, 1885; David Ivor Novello (Davies), actor, composer and director, 1893; Aristide Ocas, shipowner, 1906; Martin Luther King, black civil rights leader, 1929. Deaths: Emma, Lady Hamilton (Lyons), mistress to Lord Nelson, 1815; Jack (Weldon Lee) "Eagarden", jazz musician, vocalist and band leader, 1964; Daisy (Margaret Mary Julia) Ashford (Mrs James Devlin), author of *The Young Visitors*, 1972. On this day: The Act of Supremacy was passed in England, 1534; the British Museum opened in London, 1759; following a severe London frost, more than 40 people died when ice on the Regent's Park lake gave way, 1867. Today is the Feast Day of St Bonitus or Bonet, St Ceciwulf, St Lidore of Alexandria, St Ita, St John Calybitus and St Macarius the Elder.

attracts the British Approved Export Awards and Dore of the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London WC2.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1pm. No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 1.30pm. Band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

Obligations to employees transferred to new employer

LAW REPORT

15 January 1996

Secretary of State for Industry v Cook and others; Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Morison, Mrs M.E. Sunderland, Mr R. Jackson) 13 December 1996

For an employer's obligations under the employment contracts of its employees to be transferred to the new owner of its business under regulation 5 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981, it was not necessary (as had previously been held) to establish that the employees had notice of the transfer and knew the identity of the transferee.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry against the decision of an industrial tribunal that he was liable, under section 122 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 (as amended), to pay sums ranging from £320 to £510 to three former employees of an insolvent company, Gayton International Ltd.

The sole issue before the tribunal was whether Gayton,

when selling its business to another company, Intro Business Ltd, on terms which expressly acknowledged the application of the 1981 Regulations, had also transferred to Intro its indebtedness to the three employees. If so, then the Secretary of State would not be liable to pay Gayton's debts to the employees (unless, which it was not, Intro too were insolvent).

The tribunal held that there had been a transfer of undertaking from Gayton to Intro within reg 3 of the 1981 Regulations, the effect of which, under reg 5, would be to transfer all Gayton's obligations in respect of the employee's contracts of employment to Intro and not the Secretary of State.

However, although the employees were told that the business had been sold, they were not told the identity of the purchaser and did not discover it until well after the transfer. In

those circumstances, the tribunal was bound by the Employment Appeal Tribunal's earlier decision in *Photostatic Copiers (Southern) Ltd v Okada & Japan Office Equipment Ltd (in liquidation)* [1991] IRLR 11, to hold that reg 5(1) of the Regulations did not take effect and that the employees' contracts were accordingly not transferred to Intro, leaving the Secretary of State liable to pay Gayton's debts to the employees.

Robert Joy (Treasury Solicitor) for the Secretary of State; the respondents did not appear.

Mr Justice Morison said it had been held in the *Photostatic* case that a transfer of an undertaking did not take effect in relation to an employee's contract of employment: unless and until the employee is given notice of (i) the fact of the transfer and (ii) the identity of the transferee.

With respect to those involved

in that decision, his Lordship did not regard it as a correct interpretation of the Transfer of Undertakings Directive or the 1981 Regulations made to give it effect.

The purpose of the Directive was to safeguard the rights of workers in the event of a change of employer by making it possible for them to continue working for the transferee under the same terms and conditions as those agreed with the transferor (see, for example, the decision of the European Court of Justice in *Berg v Besselsen* [1990] ICR 396). Regulation 5(1) overruled the common law rule that a change in the identity of a contracting party required consent.

Until the Regulations were amended by the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993, it was assumed that they operated so automatically to transfer to the transferee the contracts of employment of the transferor's ex-

isting employees, whether or not the employees objected. Following a ruling of the European Court of Justice in *Kasikias v Konstantinidis* [1993] IRLR 179 that this infringed a worker's fundamental right to choose his employer, the 1993 Act amended reg 5 to allow an employee who objected to such a transfer instead to terminate his employment without being treated as having been dismissed: see reg 5(4A) and (4B).

If the *Photostatic* decision were regarded as good law, the very protection which the Directive and Regulations were designed to provide would be significantly undermined. If the employee needed to know in advance the identity of the transferee before his contract was transferred, unscrupulous employers would simply refuse to disclose what was happening.

To imply such a precondition was unnecessary and conflicted with the purpose of the Regulations. Accordingly, the *Photostatic* decision should no longer be followed.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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		COMMODITY INDICES		Base Date
		"%C Index		
Grain				1970=100
Wheat				1970=100
Soybeans				1965=100
Corn				1965=100
Wheat - Hard Red				1970=100
Wheat - Soft Red				1970=100
Wheat - Durum				1970=100
Wheat - White				1970=100
Wheat - Yellow				1970=100
Wheat - Red				1970=100
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Wheat - Red				1970=100

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Copper A	9045-6	2680-2	7082	19945	+	300
Copper B	7085-1010	7081-8	100-4	19950	-	45
Nickel	7085-40	7080-45	9200	49004	-	334
Lead	3935-45	8650-45	200	1040	-	259
Zinc	3935-55	100-7	6992	48755	-	28
Secondary Conversion	CS	2000	6W			
Exchange Index	US	10720	10688	7W	10613	

Stock volumes & change in stores as of Nov 14, Jan '87

PRECIOUS METALS								
		\$	£	Coin	\$	£	\$	£
gold bar fix.								
Platinum	30020	25450	Diamonds	380	328	Karatgold	357,058	294,221
Palladium	16225	7250	Diamonds oz	185	17	Silver	63,569	5589
White gold	48025	20000	Diamonds ct	100	10	Nickel	363,000	27,500
Gold Bull	36320	26350	Diamonds US	82	31	Meat Lard	363,000	27,500

Source: Bole & Lee

AGRICULTURAL									
Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Potatoes	
LFPE	Shrove	LFPE	Shrove	LFPE	Shrove	LFPE	Shrove	APR	Grading
May	1940	May	1940	May	92.75	May	92.00		
May	900	May	910	May	92.75	May	93.00	Feb	22.80
Jul	908	May	909	May	93.75	May	94.00	Apr	92.00
Feb	908	May	909	May	94	May	94	Feb	10.80
Wheat Sugar		Freight		Corn		Oats		Cattle Prices	
LFPE	Shrove	LFPE	Shrove	LFPE	Shrove	C&O/F	Corn/Head		
May	280.0	Jan	145	Jan	82.25		H-LD		50%
May	280.0	Feb	140	Mar	84.50	May	272.50-288.00		276.00
May	280.0	Feb	140	Mar	84.50	May	272.50-288.00		276.00
May	287	Jul/Aug	181.0	Mar	178	Jul	272.50-288.00		276.00

Source: Data

Other Soles (Agricultural)									
Unit	Miles (N/S)	Shrove	Unit	Feb	Soys Oil	FL/Qty			
Jan <td>Copas (1)<td>Shrove<td>Jan<td>Oct/Nov (1)<td>Shrove<td></td><td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td></td></td></td>	Copas (1) <td>Shrove<td>Jan<td>Oct/Nov (1)<td>Shrove<td></td><td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td></td></td>	Shrove <td>Jan<td>Oct/Nov (1)<td>Shrove<td></td><td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td></td>	Jan <td>Oct/Nov (1)<td>Shrove<td></td><td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td>	Oct/Nov (1) <td>Shrove<td></td><td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td>	Shrove <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>700.00</td>				700.00
Mar <td>Copas (4/7)<td>US/Nov/20</td><td>Feb<td>Nov/Dec<td>Shrove<td>FL/Qty<td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td></td></td></td>	Copas (4/7) <td>US/Nov/20</td> <td>Feb<td>Nov/Dec<td>Shrove<td>FL/Qty<td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td></td></td>	US/Nov/20	Feb <td>Nov/Dec<td>Shrove<td>FL/Qty<td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td></td>	Nov/Dec <td>Shrove<td>FL/Qty<td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td></td>	Shrove <td>FL/Qty<td></td><td></td><td>700.00</td></td>	FL/Qty <td></td> <td></td> <td>700.00</td>			700.00
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Origin: Datasoft - many other... (Agricultural) *Haggen **EPA Source: FT Information Services

ENERGY									
West Coast		(Shrove)	(Shrove)	WTI	Products		(Shrove)		
LFPE	Shrove	WTI	WTI	WTI	WTI	WTI	WTI	WTI	
Feb	34.50	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI</td><td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI</td> <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td>	WTI	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td>	WTI <td>WTI</td>	WTI	
Feb	29.85	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td>	WTI <td>WTI</td>	WTI	
Apr	35.00	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td>	WTI <td>WTI</td>	WTI	
Mar	35.00	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td></td>	WTI <td>WTI<td>WTI</td></td>	WTI <td>WTI</td>	WTI	

COMMODITY INDICES		+Sept		+May Chg		Dec 31st		%Volatility		Year ago		% Y Chg	
"GSCI" Indices		Index		Index		Index		Index		Index		Index	
Energy	243.8												
Index	1970-100	226.32		+140	228.28		+177	226.68			-1.98		
Agricultural	187.00				186.26			128			+53.32		
Industry	188.00				147.8			107.8			+27.77		
Prices	1970-100	177.47			+104.9			+4.4			17.906		
Financial	189.00				182			43.04			-1.57		
Industrial Metals	1970-100	453.93			-125			2.07			-10.4		

Source: Goldstein, Sachs & Co. "GSCI" is a trademark and service mark of Goldstein, Sachs & Co. ©June 1 of 11 Jan 1987

100 Largest Insurance Funds

	1st	2nd	3rd	Other	1st	2nd	3rd	Other
Black								
Abbey Equity Fund	2724	2729	2728	Equity & General Manager Appear	1985			104.5
Abbey International Sec 4	2678	2678	2285	London & Overseas Flexible Acc		1719		
Abbey Managed Fund 4	2678	2678	2285	London Equity		1719		
Abbey Managed Investment	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 1	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 2	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 3	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 4	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 5	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 6	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 7	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 8	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 9	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 10	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 11	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 12	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 13	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 14	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 15	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 16	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 17	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 18	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 19	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 20	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 21	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 22	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 23	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 24	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 25	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 26	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 27	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 28	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 29	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 30	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 31	1623	1623	1623	London Mid		1623		
Abbey Managed Fund 32	1623	1623	1623					

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Matthew Clark explains it all

But the massive flow of money into mutual funds, the US equivalent of unit trusts, looks a more solidly-based in-

The question for investors is whether Clark can bounce back. The most on-

Hodder boosted by Le Carré

The good news for Hodder is that, while the demise of the NBA caused more upheaval than anticipated, Hodder should ultimately benefit as it has a strong presence in hardback fiction. House broker NatWest is forecasting full-year profits of £6.5m this year. With shares up 5p to 225p yesterday, they trade on a forward rating of 17. High enough.

More project delays hit Babcock shares

He said the latest news was less important than the Rosyth deal. Given that it contributed

Babcock, chaired by John Parker, has a large engineering services role in the Hanson-SCM Kemerton project, which involves the construction of a titanium dioxide plant in Australia. Mr Webster said the work on the Teesside plant, claimed to be the largest of its type in the world, would be at lower margins than the business deferred, although he expected Babcock to pick up further replacement work over the next six to nine months.

Trocadero gears up for Giant Drop

Trocaadero, listed on the Alternative Investment Market, was one of the fledgling market's strongest performers in the early part of last year.

Ashquay bid fails on technicality

Shares in UK Estates fell 4p to 24.5p on the news, while Ashquay dipped a penny to 39p. Ashquay said it would proceed with a one-for-six rights issue to raise £1.5m to fund the costs of the bid.

Pre election year 5th year in decade	Election year 6th year in decade	Post election year 7th year in decade	
1915	+47%	1917	-25%
1935	+38%	1936	+25%
1955	+19%	1956	+3%
1975	+37%	1976	+16%
1995	+35%	1996	+28%
		1997	?

***Was on share until November*

The guru steps into hot water

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Looking for a top: Bob Farrell of Merrill Lynch

Colleagues of John Rew, chairman of the Sturge Names' Action group, are urging him to chronicle the goings-on at Sturge.

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1 x Ba

lloyd's names last December. Mr. Streeter, a name himself, says the autobiographical novel is now going into its second printing.

So what does Mr. Streeter think of the Lloyd's settlement? "It's an adequate compromise. It's like the First World War — each side slashing the guts out of each other and then finally signing a peace treaty. Rough justice." Sounds like a good name for a book...

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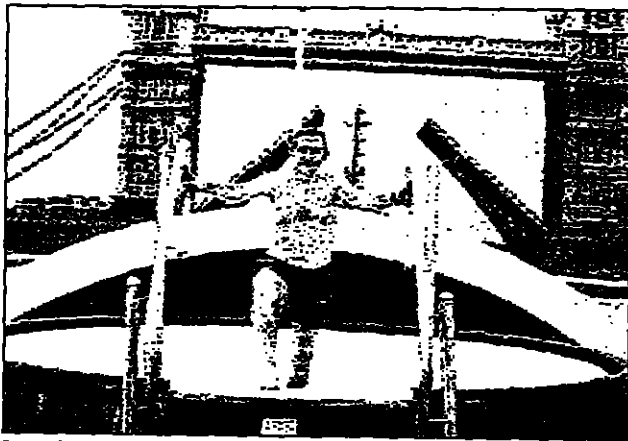
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Non-Indian aspect.

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PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Looking for a top: Bob Farrell of Merrill Lynch

There have already been several good books about Lloyd's. *The Independent's* own former foreign editor, Godfrey Hodgson, wrote *Lloyd's of London: A Reputation at Risk* in the mid-1980s. Probably the best is Adam Raphael's *Ultimate Risk*, which, however, only goes up to 1995.

Patrick Streeter, a partner in publishers Matching Press, published *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by two anonymous

Lloyd's names last December. Mr Streeter, a name himself, says the autobiographical novel is now going into its second printing.

So what does Mr Streeter think of the Lloyd's settlement? "It's an adequate compromise. It's like the First World War - each side bashing the guts out of each other and then finally signing a peace treaty. Rough justice." Sounds like a good name for a book...


David Beever became part of the great Warburg exodus when he resigned as managing director of SBC Warburg last November in order to join accountants KPMG as head of corporate finance. Now he has been appointed non-executive director of TLS, the fast-growing vehicle rental company.

Mr Beever tells me: "I've known TLS for quite a considerable length of time. I worked on leasing at Warburg in the early days, and I hope that this and my corporate finance experience will be useful."

Mr Beever is still a non-exec at Northern Electric, but he doesn't anticipate this post lasting. Since CalEnergy recently bought out the company in a fiercely contested takeover battle. He is also a non-exec at London and Continental Railways, which is developing the Channel Tunnel rail link and which owns Eurostar.

TLS should be more than just a time-filler for Mr Beever, since it has quadrupled in size over the past couple of years.

John Willcock



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NEWCASTLE'S NEW ERA: Titles won with two clubs, but doubts remain about the Magpie's choice, says **Glenn Moore**

How m

Football

Ian Wright completes his three-game ban while John Hartson, scorer of the opening goal in the 1-1 Highbury draw, is also ruled out after talking his way to a red card against Middlesbrough.

"Our away support has been brilliant," Flynn said. "They are always very vocal and they showed when we went down to West Ham and drew in the Cup four years ago how important they are. Hopefully they can be again."

"We would like to think that there will be between 4,000 to 5,000 faxes and phone calls. We've already had support from

Brighton plan to ground-share at Gillingham next season but no one at a supporters' meeting on Monday night said they would be making the 170-mile round trip.

"This is incredible," said Aamodt after collecting the

"My second run just was not good enough. I made mistakes, but all has gone well this winter. I was second today and that's not so tragic. Maybe I was trying too hard. But I won this race last year and I'm pleased with a place on the podium. You have to be ready for victory and for defeat."

Von Gruenigen's second place left him in a strong position at the top of the giant slalom standings and also in the lead in the overall World Cup, ahead of Aamodt. With two giant slaloms remaining and 200 points on offer, Von Gruenigen leads Aamodt by 159 points in the discipline.

The Norwegians had further reason to celebrate as Lasse Kjus, the reigning overall World Cup champion, returned to competition. Bothered by chronic sinus problems, Kjus has been out of action since the circuit returned to Europe from North America in December.

There was no such good news for Tomba, who missed the race because of the influenza that forced him out of the second leg of the slalom in Chamonix on Sunday. Tomba's absence could prove costly in his bid to defend his giant slalom title at the World Championships as he dropped out of the top 15 in the giant rankings for the first time in 10 years.

That means Tomba will not be able to select a start number at the World Championships in Sestriere, Italy.

At the last two world outdoor championships, winners were given a luxury Mercedes car. The gold medallists in Athens will be guaranteed \$60,000 in cash with \$30,000 and \$20,000 for second and third-placed athletes. World records in Athens will also be worth an extra \$100,000.

Tatupu will be helped to settle in by the game's biggest Kiwi colony. Although the overseas quota is now set at six, various loopholes and exemptions mean

The Silk Cut Challenge Cup final in May is already heading for a sell-out, according to the Rugby League, which has also denied that there is any danger of Paris failing to take part.

Cricket

Cricket
Pakistan yesterday cruised to victory over a depleted West Indies side by eight wickets in their limited overs World Series match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Both teams had already qualified for the final. Pakistan cantered to

11.11.71, 12.11.71, 13.11.71; 7 L Klaus (Nor) 2:24,38
11.11.71, 13.11.73; 7 L Klaus (Nor) 2:24,38
11.11.11, 13.12.71; 8 R Salzburg (Aut)
22.4.40, 10.10.59, 13.1.81; 5 S Locher (Swt)
22.4.42, 1.11.79, 1.12.63; 10 A Vogt (Ger)
22.4.57 11.11.05, 13.5.51. Glanz sieben
abstufungen (after ab events): 1 M von Gießen
(Swt) 480pts; 2 K A Asmuth (Nor) 302; 3 H
Kraus (Aut) 280; 4 S Locher (Swt) 276; 5 F
Nyberg (Swt) 252; 6 U Kaelin (Swt) 211. Over-

11-11.11. 1:13.27; 8 K Sögelcher (Auk)
2:24.40 1:(1:10.59, 1:13.81); 5 S Locher (Swi)
2:24.42 1:11.79, 1:12.63; 10 A Vogt (Ger)
2:24.57 1:11.05, 1:13.52). Giant slalom
standings (after all events): 1 M von Grünau
(Swi) 460pts; 2 K A Asmudt (Nor) 301; 3 H
Kraus (Auk) 280; 4 S Locher (Swi) 278; 5 F
Nyberg (Swe) 252; 6 U Kaelin (Swi) 211. Over-

2-7.5; M Joyce (US) to R Camerero (Sp) 6-1
7-6 6-3; S Bruguera (Sp) to L Hewitt (Aus) 6-4
6-4 6-3; N Pietrangeli (It) to K Alami (Mor) 8-4
2-6 6-4; M Larsson (Swe) to J A Viloca (Sp) 6-3
6-3 6-2; M Washington (US) to J Elvingh (Neth)
5-3 6-7 6-3 6-2; M RIOS (Chile) to P Korda (Cz
Rep) 7-6 6-3 6-3; P Tziamaschi (Aus) to J van
Nierck (Bel) 6-7 6-3 6-4 3-2 ret; J Novak (Cz
Rep) to L Jonsson (Swe) 6-3 6-3 6-2; S Sangman

7-6 0-1; S Stangstedt (Swe) 1; L Pernard (Nor) 1
6-4 6-3; N Kuiti (Swe) 1; K Alami (Mor) 6-4
2-6 2-4; M Larsson (Swe) 1; J A Viloca (Sp) 8-
9 6-3 7-8; M Washington (US) 1; E Blumh (Neth)
5-3 6-7 6-3 6-2; M Rios (Chile) 1; P Korda (Cz
Rep) 7-6 6-3 6-3; P Tramezzini (Aust) 1; J van
Noordk (Bel) 6-7 6-3 6-4 3-2 ret.; J Novak (Cz
Rep) 1; L Jonsson (Swe) 6-3 6-3 6-2; S Sangster



Photograph: AFP

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Crying game

Jennifer Capriati in tears after Australian Open defeat, page 21

sport

Stewart's double life

England's wicketkeeper-batsman on his dual responsibilities, page 20

FOOTBALL: Former Liverpool and Blackburn manager is unanimous choice of Newcastle board to replace Kevin Keegan

Dalglish accepts the challenge

PETER PARKER

Kenny Dalglish has returned to football management as Kevin Keegan's successor at the helm of Newcastle United.

Newcastle's chairman, Sir John Hall, confirmed the Scot's appointment at a news conference at St James' Park yesterday evening after news of the club's decision had leaked out earlier from Rangers, for whom Dalglish had only just begun working in an advisory capacity.

Sir John, who said the appointment had the unanimous backing of the board, thanked Keegan for his work as manager over the past five years before saying of Dalglish, "I am certain with his record he will do wonders at this club, a club with great expectations."

That record includes two championships, with Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers, but he also left both those clubs after taking them to the pinnacle of the domestic game.

Dalglish, who also succeeded Keegan as Liverpool's No 7 in 1977, signed a three-and-a-half year contract and stressed he was looking to build on the legacy of the Keegan years on Tyneside. "Kevin set tremendous foundations here and everyone appreciates what he did for Newcastle. I am looking forward to taking over from someone who's done a superb job," he said.

Despite retreating from the pressure at Anfield in 1991 and moving upstairs as director of football at Ewood Park before leaving in 1995, Dalglish said he had not been able to resist the chance to return to management at a club of Newcastle's standing. He said: "There was no rush for me to get back into management but when a job comes along of this stature it's difficult to turn it down."

Dalglish said he would keep on former his Liverpool teammate, Terry McDermott, and the chief scout, Arthur Cox, who took charge of the team in the wake of Keegan's departure. They will stay in command for the FA Cup replay with Charlton at St James' Park tomorrow and Dalglish said: "Terry and Arthur have prepared the team for tomorrow and it wouldn't be fair of me to take over."

"Terry Mac will stay here. He's someone I know I can trust and the same goes for Arthur. He has got a vast knowledge of Newcastle football club and it would be wrong of me to dismiss that. I can learn from it."

Dalglish has inherited a Newcastle side challenging for honours on three fronts — they are fourth in the Premiership, in the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup and still in the FA Cup, but he was not about to make any rash predictions about success.

"I don't ever set targets. I just do my best and ask the same of other people," Dalglish said. "I'll try my best to give the people and the players here what they want — which is success."



Kenny Dalglish, Newcastle's new manager (left), shares a joke with Terry McDermott, who is staying on at the club, at St James' Park last night

Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Emphas

"But let's just wait and see where we go from here. I never shoot my mouth off. I just go out and do the work. If the success does come along, all good and well."

Dalglish briefly met the Newcastle players before facing the press and then greeting ecstatic Toon Army fans, who had gathered outside the stadium singing his name.

Dalglish signed Alan Shearer and David Batty while at Blackburn, and played alongside and managed Peter Beardsley at Liverpool. With McDermott and Mark Lawrenson on the coaching staff, there will be plenty of familiar faces around him.

"There is always someone at the club you know when you take over, but the main thing, as far as I'm concerned, is that the players Kevin's left here are a credit to the club and to Kevin's judgement," he said. "The cynics may say there's not been any silverware, but there's not many clubs win silverware and there's no doubt that he's made the club stronger and given a lot of pride

and satisfaction back to Newcastle supporters which was missing five years ago."

Hall promised that Dalglish, like Keegan before him, would enjoy considerable financial backing in the transfer market. "You always have to make money available. This club has never shirked from spending money," Hall said.

Dalglish pre-empted inevitable questions about the manner in which he left Liverpool and Blackburn, each time of his own accord.

"I left Liverpool, which is well-versed, because I was unable to do the job, but there were two disasters in 14 years' service," he said. "And I left Blackburn because I was trying to protect Ray Harford a little bit, because there were internal problems, but they were footballing reasons."

First news came of the appointment came from Rangers' vice-chairman, Donald Findlay, speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live.

Only last month Dalglish

agreed to join Carnegie Sports International, a company owned by the Rangers chairman, David Murray, in the role of new business development manager.

Findlay said: "I haven't spoken to him [Dalglish] personally, but I know obviously that things have been happening over the last day or two. We are sorry to see him go, but naturally wish him every success at Newcastle."

As the search for Keegan's successor progressed, Dalglish appeared to have slipped below Barcelona's Bobby Robson in

the pecking order, but, despite much public and private agonising, Robson proved unable to commit himself to a move to Newcastle.

The sight of grieving Magpies fans after Keegan announced

his departure last week gave the impression that they saw that as the end of the world, but the appointment of Dalglish seems very likely to sweep away that mood of despair.

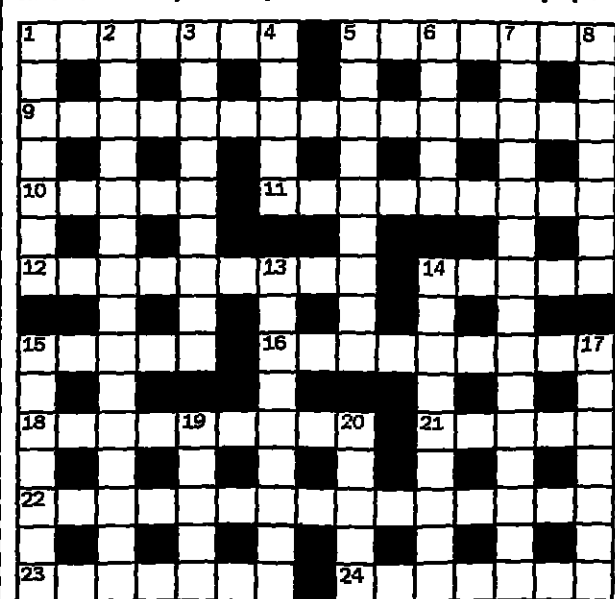
Dalglish's record, page 22

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3196, Wednesday 15 January

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS
1 Rivets, say, once driven in shipyards (3-4)
5 See me wearing plain-woven vestment (7)
9 Cast on? (5,6,4)
10 Joint given in dismissal (5)
11 Insert art-work in moderation (9)
12 Muse to play the market (9)
14 Doctor benefit a black-eye? (5)
15 Blackly caught in trap, hiding — (5)
16 Not up to carrying trap back? That's indelible! (9)
18 Piece of gear-selection to help remove pieces from bridge? (9)
21 Abandoned convenience has only half a seat (5)

DOWN
1 Not using top gear around Yorkshire moor, in the air? (7)
2 Blighter soon out and about, mediating (15)
3 Place dressing here — hands not functioning, as a result (9)
4 Step necessary for celebrity to embrace one (5)
5 Principal line of ships (9)
6 Runner between banks in West Africa (5)
7 Four women stumbled on plain solution (8,7)

Middlesbrough rocked by three-point penalty

NICK DUXBURY

The day began badly for Bryan Robson and went downhill. First, his expensive Italian striker, Fabrizio Ravanelli, declared that Middlesbrough were doomed to relegation and then the Football Association left the Teessiders further adrift at the bottom of the Premiership by deducting three points for their no-show at Blackburn Rovers.

Middlesbrough were also fined £50,000, ordered to pay the costs of the FA commission and may have to pay compensation to Blackburn, who were left high and dry when Boro cancelled the game on 21 December with 24 hours' notice.

On top of that they will still have to play the game at Ewood Park. Robson, the club's manager, left the five-hour hearing at the FA's London headquarters grim-faced and making no comment after the decision which leaves his expensive, multi-national team four points adrift of next-to-bottom Southampton.

His demeanour before the hearing cannot have been much better, with Ravanelli having expressed his disgust with the way things are going at Boro, who have won only one of their last 16 League matches. "I reckon we will be relegated," he said.

ed. I'm almost certain of it," the striker, who cost £7.5m from Juventus in the summer, said in an Italian newspaper.

Ravanelli also mocked Robson's decision to give the players a break after Christmas even though they had slumped to the foot of the table.

"I can't even get angry any more. We have few chances of achieving safety and they give us three days off from training."

BOTTOM SIX

Country	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	22	5	8	9	22	31	29
Leeds	21	6	5	10	20	30	23
West Ham	21	5	7	9	18	26	22
Nottingham Forest	22	4	8	10	21	36	20
Southampton	21	5	4	12	29	37	19
Middlesbrough	22	4	6	12	25	41	15

*Three points deducted

I went to the training camp but everything was locked up. The situation, I am very sorry to say, is truly tragic."

His pessimism was well founded, with Robson and the Middlesbrough chief executive, Keith Lamb, failing to convince the disciplinary hearing that 23 sick, injured and suspended players left them with no option but to pull out of the Blackburn game. Medical evidence supported their claim that Boro would have been unable to do themselves justice in a vital relegation match.

The Premier League, like

Boro, refused to comment after the hearing beyond a statement detailing the sanctions.

The Blackburn caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, who at the time described Boro's action as akin "to a Sunday League side", had thought Rovers had a good chance of being awarded the points.

"That hasn't happened and this is the second-best decision for us," he said. "But there are still things that we need to know."

"For instance, will Middlesbrough be allowed to field players they have signed in the meantime? It is very hard for anyone to recreate the original circumstances or situation."

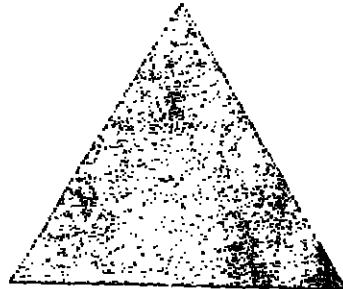
The Blackburn chairman, Robert Coar, said: "We argued strongly that Middlesbrough should have forfeited the game on the basis that they must have believed that Blackburn Rovers would have won. The commission warned that in future forfeiting a game might be an appropriate penalty."

The one bright spot in Robson's day was the arrival of the defender, Gianluca Festa, ready to complete his £2.7m move from Internazionale. Quite what Ravanelli had to say by way of greeting to his compatriot must have filled Robson with dread.

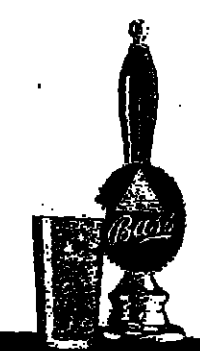
Southampton shares soar.



Men at work.



(See above).



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